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Full details



Heseltine and Clarke kept in dark

Major offers free vote on Europe

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Government's European policy was in confusion last night after John Major's two most senior ministers admitted they had not been consulted over his promise to give Tory MPs a free vote on joining a single currency.

Mr Major surprised and pleased Eurosceptics yesterday when he hinted that a free vote was likely if his Cabinet were to recommend going in. And as the day wore on he hardened up the pledge, saying that it was right "for MPs to exercise their own personal judgment". He made plain, however, that ministers would be expected to toe the government line.

He told journalists: "It would be rather odd, would it not, to say you are going to have a referendum of every adult in the country but then say backbench MPs are going to be dragged in a particular way. So clearly the same principle must apply to them."

But the Prime Minister was accused of making concessions under pressure and Labour's charge that he had changed policy "on the hoof" gained force when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, admitted to the BBC's *World at One* radio programme that he had not known that Mr Major was going to make the announcement. He added that he thought it would "help to address the present difficulty".

The impression of disarray was heightened several hours later when Michael Heseltine played down the idea that Mr Major had made any policy change and appeared irritated



Hywel Williams, above, chief aide to John Redwood, masterminded the campaign to give Tory candidates cash for flouting the government line on the single currency. Page 9

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ed by any suggestion that he had.

Interviewed on the PM programme, the Deputy Prime Minister said it was clear that Mr Major had been answering a question at his morning press conference rather than making a "prepared statement". The free vote was only a possibility. But it was clear that Mr Heseltine had not been told that Mr Major had also strengthened his promise through the day. And two hours later, he was still talking about a "possibility".

The developments prompted

ed senior Tory officials to issue firm denials of any split at the top. They accused the BBC of "obsessive textual analysis" and said that Mr Major, Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine were all agreed that the free vote was "an option" if at some distant time a Cabinet decided to recommend to Parliament and country that Britain should join a single currency.

The issue had been discussed informally between ministers, but it had not been known that Mr Major would disclose the idea yesterday. One senior source said: "Frankly we have known for some time that this would be the only way to play it."

With more than 200 Conservative candidates having come out during the election against a single currency, it is now apparent that a new Conservative government could never, on its own votes, take the country into monetary union in the highly unlikely event that it would want to.

Tony Blair said that Mr Major was presiding over a shambles. "There are two Tory parties and he appears to be in charge of neither of them."

The Tory sceptics were happy with events and John Redwood said: "A free vote is an excellent idea. It would look very bad to usher in a single currency with the biggest backbench revolt in history." But Mr Major's pledge had also satisfied pro-European Tories because it opened up the prospect that a future Conservative government might try to mobilise pro-Europeans in other parties to support a single currency if it was shown to be in Britain's best interests.

Mr Clarke seemed relaxed about a free vote. He hoped that it would take the pressure off Conservatives who had been racing to declare their line now. He even recalled that it was a free Tory vote in the Commons in 1971 that led to Britain joining the European Community.

Pressed yesterday afternoon on whether Mr Clarke and other senior ministers had been consulted about a free vote, Mr Major said: "It is a matter for the Prime Minister and the Chief Whip and of course it has been discussed. It is not a matter I have set out and discussed with colleagues, but I have no doubt that this would be the way to handle the matter."

For the second successive day, Mr Major decided to concentrate on Europe at his press conference and his message was again that Mr Blair would be too inexperienced for the Amsterdam summit on Europe's future in June. "They may claim these days not to wave the red flag, but they are certainly going to Amsterdam to wave the white flag."



Poussin's *Temps Calme*, which has been sold to the Getty Museum in California for an estimated £15 million by the Sudeley Castle trustees

Poussin landscape sold abroad 'to save castle'

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most ravishing landscapes by Poussin, the 17th-century French master revered as an outstanding influence on European art, is likely to leave Britain after its private treaty sale to the Getty Museum in California.

Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire — once the home of Henry VIII's last wife, Catherine Parr — has sold Poussin's *Temps Calme*, a 1650s imaginary landscape featuring a shepherd watching his flock. The price has not been disclosed, but it is believed to exceed £15 million. The Getty Museum has applied for an export licence and scholars yesterday lamented the prospect of losing it.

The trustees of Sudeley Castle, which dates from the 15th century, say they have been forced to sell off the "family silver" to save the house for future generations. It is home to Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, who has been described as Britain's richest and most eligible bachelor.

Michael MacLachlan, a solicitor for the Sudeley trustees, said yesterday: "The trustees of the Sudeley Castle estate have with considerable reluctance found it necessary to sell a painting by Poussin."

However, this is not the first time that Sudeley, a 1,200-acre estate on which Charles I hid during the Civil War and where George III fell down one of the staircases, has sold works from a collection that includes Rubens, Reynolds and Ruysdael. In 1990, the trustees sent

Constable's *The Lock* to Sotheby's, where it sold for £10.78 million to the Thyssen Foundation in Lugano. Mr Dent-Brocklehurst was reported to have inherited £50 million on his 30th birthday. His mother, Lady Ashcombe, moved into the castle after the death of her husband; the house was passed down to them from John and William Dent, the Worcester glove-makers, who acquired it in 1837.

Mr MacLachlan was unable to elaborate on why so much money was needed so soon after the Constable sale. He also dismissed reports of the £50-million inheritance as "wildly inaccurate".

The Getty Museum will once again have to contend with Britain's art export laws: in its unsuccessful attempt to



Dent-Brocklehurst: "Richest bachelor in the country"

Twenty new peers in surprise list

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR has surprised colleagues by deciding to name about 20 new peers in the middle of the general election campaign.

Up to six former Labour MPs and some from other parties will be among those heading for the House of Lords in the list to be announced by Downing Street at midnight tonight.

It had been thought that the names would have been included in the Dissolution or Resignation List expected next month. But because so many former Cabinet ministers are retiring, sources say that Mr Major has decided that he needs two bites at the cherry. It is the first time since the 1970 election that such an

announcement has come during a campaign. But it has happened four times since 1945.

Douglas Hurd, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Michael Jopling, Richard Ryder and Paul Channon are virtually certain to become peers, as may Kenneth Baker, John Biffen and long-serving stalwarts of the 1992 Committee.

From the opposition, the list seems certain to include Roy Hattersley and Peter Shore, and there will be considerable interest in whether Labour MPs such as John Gilbert and Doug Hoyle, who announced their retirement from the Commons at the last minute, are also elevated.

Sir David Steel, the former Liberal chief, and Sir James Molyneux, the former leader of the Ulster Unionists, are other candidates for peerages. The decision to announce

Continued on page 2, col 8

Man held over Docklands bomb attack

A 33-year-old man was flown from Northern Ireland to London yesterday under armed police guard for questioning about the IRA lorry bomb attack on Docklands last year.

James McArdle, from the village of Cullyhanna near Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, was arrested in South Armagh last week along with six other men.

Patrick McKinley, 32, from Mullaghbawn near Forkhill, South Armagh, has already been charged in connection with the Docklands bombing, in which two men died and 100 were injured.

Photograph, page 2

Grandpaddy

Paddy Ashdown's daughter, Kate, has given birth to a son. The Liberal Democrat leader and his wife, Jane, hope to visit them at their home in Burgundy at the weekend.

Netanyahu says he will stay and fight

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, insisted last night that he would resist all attempts to force his resignation after a police report recommended that he be charged with fraud and breach of public trust.

After an emergency meeting of the left-wing opposition Labour Party discussed murky deals behind the brief appointment of an Attorney-General, Mr Netanyahu told cheering members of his ruling Likud Party: "This Government is not going anywhere. We are staying where the people and history have put us."

The Prime Minister assured the activists that Likud would continue to lead the Jewish state "until the year 2000" and beyond. At the same time his aides claimed that the scandal was part of a left-wing plot to

unseat the Government.

Top Israeli law officers met at a secret location to decide whether or not to press charges against Mr Netanyahu when they present a final report in the next few days. Israeli newspapers said the scandal could provoke early elections if the Prime Minister were to be charged.

The law officers are also deciding if they should accept police recommendations that charges be brought against three of Mr Netanyahu's close political allies. Commentators said that the affair had plunged Israel into its gravest political and constitutional crisis since its foundation in 1948. The political turmoil has overshadowed new attempts by Washington to rescue the crumbling peace process.

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World's favourite pastime makes it bumpy for BA

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AIRWAYS is in a delicate condition: four months after allowing stewardesses working over Christmas and New Year to take their husbands with them, many are pregnant. The airline has been forced to recruit extra staff to cover maternity leave.

"We are delighted, but this is creating a few headaches in our planning department," a spokesman

said. "Every day another five girls are reporting pregnancies."

The spokesman said that 591 of the airline's 6,000 stewardesses are expecting a child, as are three of its 60 women pilots.

Lynne Conter, the manager of the crew welfare centre, said: "We wanted them to take their loved ones with them so they weren't alone when they had to work over Christmas. Many went off to somewhere nice and romantic like

the Bahamas or the Seychelles.

"Now its four months later — the timing is about right. But we hadn't expected this at all. They were away together for one to three days and we paid the hotel bill."

Pregnant staff are put on ground duty six months before the expected date of delivery, thereafter normal maternity leave rules apply. Most pregnant stewardesses are in their 20s and 30s but a few, in their 40s, are

expecting a second child, BA said.

The spokesman said: "They are no longer allowed to fly after their twelfth week because it could damage the babies' health." The physical exertion of working in the aisles is the main reason for their grounding. "Pushing and pulling those carts cannot be helpful to an unborn child," he said. Lack of oxygen and higher radiation levels at cruising altitudes are further reasons.

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Security breakthrough over killing of Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick

Man charged with three IRA murders over 19 years

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN was charged yesterday with three IRA murders in Northern Ireland over a 19-year period, including the shooting of Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick last February.

Martin McGinn, 39, from Castleblaney, Co Monaghan in the Irish Republic, was one of three men who faced a series of terrorist charges amid tight security at a special sitting of Banbridge Magistrates' Court, Co Down.

The men were arrested on April 10 during a massive anti-terrorist operation at a farm outside the village of Crossmaglen in South Armagh close to the border with the Irish Republic. Armed police and soldiers seized a .50 Barrett bolt action rifle, an AKM assault rifle and a quantity of ammunition.

McGinn, who was unshaven and had bruises on his face, denied the murder of Lance Bombardier Restorick, 23, in the village of Bessbrook, Co Armagh, in February. The soldier was shot by an IRA sniper as he manned a military checkpoint outside the village's security base.

Flanked by two RUC officers, McGinn sat impassively in the dock as he was also charged with the murders of Lance Bombardier Paul Garrett, 23, who was shot by an IRA sniper in Keady, South Armagh, in December 1993, and of Gilbert Johnston, 25, a former UDR soldier, who was shot by the IRA outside a sweet shop in Keady in August 1978.

During a lengthy hearing, McGinn's solicitor alleged that his client was beaten by soldiers when he was arrested last Thursday. The solicitor alleged that McGinn suffered injuries to his head, shoulders, eyes, arms and legs which needed to be treated with stitches and staples.

An RUC detective con-

firmed that McGinn was treated for injuries at Craigavon Area Hospital. He said: "I am aware at the time of the accused's apprehension there was a struggle. The accused was medically examined on his arrival in police custody. I cannot comment if the accused had been injured prior to his apprehension."

McGinn and the two other men, Michael Caraher, 30, from Cullyhanna, and Martin Mines, 29, from Crossmaglen, were each charged with a number of other terrorist offences.

The men, who appeared in court separately, were charged with conspiracy with others to murder a person or persons unknown on April 10; possession of a .50 Barrett bolt action rifle and an AKM assault rifle and a quantity of ammunition on April 10; and membership of the Provisional IRA.

Caraher was also charged with the attempted murder of a police officer in Forkhill, South Armagh, last month. Caraher was seriously injured when two Royal Marines fired 20 shots at his car as he allegedly sped away from a check-point in Cullyhanna in December 1990. His brother, Fergal, died in the shooting.

The three men, who denied all the charges, were remanded in custody until next month.

The American Barrett "Light 50" rifle is one of the most deadly weapons in the IRA's arsenal, which was used in a series of sniper attacks on the security forces along the border in the early 1990s. The five-long rifle was developed to penetrate armour.

Lance Bombardier Restorick was the first soldier to be murdered by an IRA sniper since December 1993. His death brought to 12 the number of troops and RUC officers killed by snipers since 1992.



James McArdle was flown from Ulster to London yesterday for questioning about the Docklands bombing

Anger over killer soldiers case

By NICHOLAS WATT

NATIONALISTS in Northern Ireland reacted furiously last night after Sir Patrick Mayhew announced that two Scots Guardsmen would have their life sentences for the murder of a Catholic joyrider reviewed five years early.

In one of his last acts as Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick said that "exceptional mitigating factors" merited an early review of the cases of Mark Wright and James Fisher.

The soldiers were jailed in Belfast ordered the Northern Ireland Office last year to review their cases. Mr Justice Givan quashed a decision by the office not to refer their cases to the Northern Ireland Life Sentence Review Board until 1998.

Dr Joe Hendron, who has been the SDLP MP for West Belfast for the last five years, condemned Sir Patrick's decision as "disgraceful". Dr Hendron compared the soldiers' treatment to Sir Patrick's decision to release Private Lee Clegg two years after he was convicted of the murder of a Catholic joyrider. Clegg was freed after a high profile campaign by retired officers from his regiment.

Sir Patrick's statement last night came after a similar campaign was launched on behalf of Wright and Fisher by senior members of the Scots Guards. In a joint letter to *The Times* earlier this month, Major-General Murray Naylor and Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, two senior retired Scots Guards commanders, called on Sir Patrick to review

their cases "as a matter of urgency". Retired guardsmen recently presented a petition on behalf of the jailed soldiers to 10 Downing Street.

In a statement last night the Northern Ireland Office said that the Province's Life Sentence Review Board would consider the guardsmen's cases in October this year because of exceptional factors. The statement added: "Although Wright and Fisher committed a gravely serious crime, there are exceptional mitigating factors in these cases which indicate that an earlier first review is appropriate."

It went on: "These mitigating factors include the difficult circumstances in which the soldiers were operating in the course of their duty and the fact that there was no premeditation. Sinn Féin last night condemned Sir Patrick's decision. Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber, said: "His decision is consistent with a British establishment which has always sought to protect its forces from the legal consequences of their criminal actions."



Peter McBride, who was shot dead in Belfast in 1992

Triple killer loses extradition case

The Irish High Court yesterday rejected an attempt by the triple killer Alan Reeve to avoid extradition to Britain. Reeve, 49, who is reported to have qualified as a lawyer while in prison in Holland for killing a policeman, escaped from Broadmoor special hospital in 1981. He had agreed to extradition yesterday but changed his mind and unsuccessfully sought a High Court order to restrain the Irish authorities from sending him back.

Turning down the last-minute application, Dedan Costello, president of the Irish High Court, said he had concluded that there was no substance to the legal move and there was also no reality for making an order blocking the extradition. Reeve was sent to Broadmoor at the age of 15 for killing another boy and later was convicted of the manslaughter of a fellow patient in the hospital. Irish police said Reeve would be flown back to Britain today.

FBI help in Coulton case

Police hunting the killer of Pat Coulton, whose husband Michael is a member of the Royal Protection and Diplomatic Squad, are receiving help from the FBI. Two members of Thames Valley Police have travelled to California and Florida where they are looking for potential witnesses. Mrs Coulton, 52, died after being stabbed 20 times. Her body was found in January in the grounds of the nursing home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, where she worked. Her husband was suspended after the discovery of firearms at the couple's home in Woking, Surrey.

Yates not to be charged

Paula Yates, former wife of Bob Geldof, and Michael Hutchence, singer with the rock group INXS, will not face charges over an alleged drugs find at their home, Scotland Yard said last night. The couple were in Australia when their home in Chelsea was raided last September. Scotland Yard said: "Police investigating an allegation of possession of drugs against a 36-year-old man and woman have been advised by the Crown Prosecution Service that there is insufficient evidence to offer a realistic prospect of conviction. Police will be taking no further action."

Rape case 'contempt'

An Old Bailey judge referred the *Daily Mail* to the Attorney-General for contempt yesterday after the newspaper challenged his right to restrict publication of material relating to future trials. The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Vane, had banned the reporting of some material from the case of an Austrian tourist who was raped by eight teenagers for fear of jeopardising pending trials. The newspaper said the judge had no such authority and that only the High Court could impose such restrictions—a view the Crown dismissed as "judicious contempt".

Girl, 15, killed by car

A teenage girl was killed and another had her legs broken when they were hit by a car that mounted the pavement as they walked together. Sarah Gaffney, 15, from Westborough, Newcastle, died in hospital shortly after the accident. Emma Daggart, 16, had been walking with her, William Baxter, 45, from Newcastle, a passenger in the car, was in intensive care with a fractured skull after being trapped for 15 minutes in the car, which hit a lampost. He was cut free by firemen. The driver of the car, which was carrying five people, was arrested.

BBC revisits Wessex

The BBC has commissioned a screenplay of the Thomas Hardy classic *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* as a four-part drama expected to be shown on Sunday evenings. Alan Sharp, a screen playwright, is to adapt the classic tale of doomed love. Mr Sharp was commissioned by the BBC after his work on the film *Rob Roy*. It would be the second Hardy novel dramatised by the BBC. It broadcast *The Mayor of Casterbridge* in the 1970s. The 240-minute project could cost up to £4.5 million, with funding coming from the BBC's 1996-97 drama budget of £184 million.

Asylum plea allowed

A High Court judge ordered that a Russian homosexual be allowed to appeal against Britain's refusal to give him asylum. The 26-year-old man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said that he faced persecution from gangs of youths who harassed and killed gays, and from psychiatric hospitals. The Home Office originally ruled that he did not have a "well-founded fear" of persecution because homosexuality had been decriminalised in Russia. The decision was upheld by a special adjudicator, but the judge said that the adjudicator might not have considered all the evidence.

1,600 protest calls

More than 1,600 of the record 7,179 complaints about noise and other environmental nuisances at Manchester Airport last year were made by one person. The anonymous man, who lives at Cheadle Hulme under the airport's flightpath, telephoned the airport up to five times a day to protest about noise. His 1,640 calls represented 23 per cent of last year's total. "I suppose he has us on a redial button by now," an airport spokeswoman said, adding that, thankfully, he did not reverse the charges. In all, ten people were responsible for 48 per cent of all complaints.

Hat-trick appeal rejected

Phil Hutchings, 65, a village cricketer in Abbotsbury, Dorset, claimed a unique hat-trick after taking two wickets with his final deliveries last season against the Hampshire side, Burley. The third wicket fell with his first ball of the new season last weekend, coincidentally also against Burley. But his appeal was turned down yesterday by Wisden, the cricketers' bible. Chris Lane, the managing director, said: "It is a commendable effort but I am afraid he cannot claim a hat-trick. It has to be three wickets in three consecutive balls in the same match."

Poussin sale

Continued from page 1
acquire Canova's *Three Graces*, the Californian institution found itself frustrated by the Government's repeated manipulation of the rules. The procedure may be easier this time because Britain boasts an extensive collection of Poussins: there are 13 at the National Gallery in London, one at the National Galleries of Scotland, which also has eight on loan from the Duke of Sutherland, and examples at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Michael Clarke, the keeper of the National Galleries of Scotland, said of *Temps Calme*: "It's one of the most beautiful of his landscapes. It really is an absolute stunner. It would be sad if it left the country."

Sir Denis Mahon, one of Britain's most eminent scholars, said: "It's a splendid picture, a marvellous landscape." On hearing the estimated price, he said: "At that figure, there is little that British galleries can do. Presumably, the only way it could be retained would be if some device could be found for loaning money to be involved." It was only in 1977 that the painting was attributed to Poussin (1694-1665). It was identified by Clive Whitfield, a leading art historian and dealer, whose scholarly paper noted: "The character of the brushwork, the brilliance of the colour, and even the capacity to surprise, are all qualities we can immediately recognise as Poussin's own."

ITN wins apology on 'fake' claim

ITN and two of its journalists received a High Court apology yesterday over allegations that they deceived the public by fabricating news coverage of detention camps set up by the Bosnian Serbs.

Penny Marshall, Ian Williams and an ITN camera team were among the first reporters allowed into the camps at Omarska and Trnopolje in August 1992. Muslims were being held in appalling conditions. Reports on ITV and Channel 4 aroused international opinion to intervene in the Yugoslavian conflict, and their reports received a number of awards.

In January this year Two-Ten Communications, a press-release distribution company, circulated a release from the journal *Living Marxism* about a forthcoming article by a German journalist, Thomas Deichmann. It said that images of barbed wire at the camps had been created by camera angles and editing, and had "fooled the world".

Two-Ten accepted that was untrue, and issued an apology with costs. Karen Mason, its solicitor, apologised for "very real distress and damage" to ITN and its reporters, and said: "Two-Ten Communications distributes releases word for word as provided by its clients, without any editorial input or amendment."

St Paul's reviews Lockheed deal

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL is to review its decision to accept £15,000 sponsorship from an American arms manufacturer for a concert in July.

The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's are next Wednesday to reconsider their decision to accept the cash from Lockheed Martin. Brigadier Robert Acworth, the cathedral registrar, said: "They are going to review the sponsorship by Lockheed in view of the comments that have been made. But I hope we are going to hold the concert."

The decision to accept sponsorship from a British

subsidiary of Lockheed Martin was condemned by some as un-Christian. The Dean, Dr John Moses, said: "This is something we must look at when we meet as a Chapter. The Church of England has an ethical investment policy which includes not investing in armaments, and some would therefore say that sponsorship was not to be taken from arms manufacturers."

But Dr Moses added: "We live in a wicked world. There are times when it is right for a nation to go to war. Therefore arms manufacturing follows. I believe the nation has the right to defend itself against attack. He said he was not able to take an "aloud, superior moral position" against armaments, while demanding at the same time to be defended. Canon John Halliburton, chairman of the committee which accepted the offer of sponsorship, told today's *Church Times* that he had been surprised at the outcry. "I thought Lockheed made engines for aeroplanes," he said. The British division of Lockheed Martin involved is the Portsmouth-based Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems. Earlier this week, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade said: "It seems to us that the church has rewritten the Sixth Commandment to 'Thou shalt not kill' — unless we get a whacking great profit."

New peers

Continued from page 1
new peers may be attacked by Labour as an attempt by Mr Major to bolster Tory ranks in the House of Lords while he is still Prime Minister. Labour has long complained that the Tories have unfairly increased their underlying majority in the Lords through the creation of new peers.

On the opposition view, Labour needs at least three dozen new peers over and above any new Tory creations to restore the balance before the 1979 election. A second list would include peerages and other lesser awards for ministers and former MPs defeated on May 1. That is when Mr Major would reward his personal and political staff.

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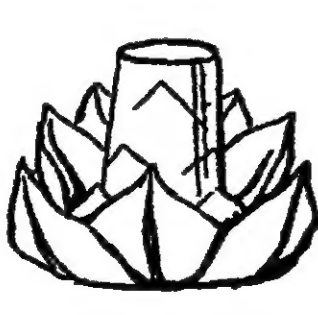
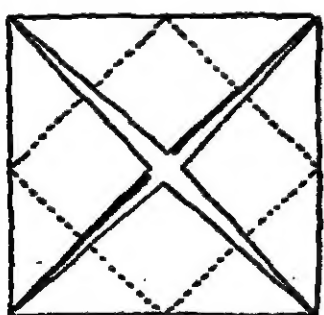


Fig. 11. The water-lily fold for table napkins.

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New cancer treatment shows early promise

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A NEW cancer treatment has produced encouraging results in a trial at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. Nine patients with lymphoma that had resisted conventional treatments were given the new therapy. In four, it produced improvements, and in one the tumours disappeared.

"The results are far better than we expected at such an early stage of the drug's development," David Cunningham, head of the hospital's lymphoma unit, said. The results will be a boost to "antisense" therapies, in which cancer genes are stopped from operating by binding to them lengths of genetic material that are their mirror image.

The cancer from which the patients were suffering — non-Hodgkin's lymphoma — grows because the tumour cells have lost their ability to commit suicide. The reason lies in a protein called BCL-2, which blocks the process. The therapy aims to correct this by interfering with the gene responsible for making BCL-2, and restoring the cells' ability to control themselves.

Andrew Webb, Dr Cunningham and colleagues explain in *The Lancet* that they blocked the gene by interfering with the molecules that carry the message the cell needs to make the protein.

Alzheimer's affects half older drivers killed in accidents

By Ian Murray

MORE than half the drivers aged over 65 who are killed in road accidents are suffering from some form of Alzheimer's disease, according to the latest research.

The study, published today in *The Lancet*, throws light on why so many crashes occur at junctions, where judgment is vital. Loss of judgment is one of the early effects on Alzheimer's sufferers, who progressively lose their memory, become confused and suffer bad co-ordination.

Doctors examined the brains of 98 drivers over the age of 65 who died in car crashes. They took samples from parts of the brain that are involved in judgment and co-ordination and scored them for the plaques, tangled nerves and other changes that are characteristics of Alzheimer's. They found that in a third of the cases there was conclusive evidence of the disease and positive indications that a further 20 per cent were becoming affected by it. The proportion of those with the disease increased with age.

There are 3.8 million licence holders aged over 65 among the 24 million in Britain. In 1995, the last year with complete records, they were involved in 22 per cent of all fatal

accidents and 13 per cent of accidents involving injuries. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, they have a higher accident rate than any age group other than the youngest drivers. Bad eyesight, stiffening joints and poor bearing have been blamed; the new report suggests Alzheimer's is a big factor.

There are 670,000 people in Britain with senile dementia of one kind or another, 500,000 of them suffering from Alzheimer's. Around 5 per cent of those over 65 are known to have the disease, but the proportion rises steeply with age and about 20 per cent of those over 80 suffer from it.

All drivers in Britain have to reapply for their licences when they are 70 and must do so every three years thereafter. Applicants are meant to say whether they have any physical problems or disease, but there is no requirement for a medical check-up. Doctors can be asked to certify that drivers are fit to drive if they have mentioned something on the form that requires testing. Insurance companies sometimes require older drivers to have a medical.

The Alzheimer's Disease Society considers these checks

are sufficient. "There is a perfectly good system of safeguards in place and I think it is alarmist to say that sufferers are responsible for so many accidents," Veronica Fullard, the society's spokesman, said. "As long as people realise that they should go for regular check-ups and carers understand that a pattern of odd behaviour can be a first sign of something wrong, then this should not be a problem."

Kevin Clinton, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said that it was opposed to mandatory testing of old people but encouraged them to have regular check-ups. "It is just not worth going on driving if you are not physically fit to do so."

Kevin Delaney, director of road safety at the RAC, said that older people relied more heavily on cars than the young and were worried about losing their licences if they confessed to medical problems. "As we get older we tend to compensate for falling faculties by driving more slowly, but there is an inbuilt resistance to going to see the doctor."

The *Lancet* report was by Dr Matti Viitanen, of Huddinge University Hospital, Sweden, and colleagues from Finland.

Hospital is cleared over death from starvation

By Paul Wilkinson

A MOTHER threatened legal action against doctors yesterday after an inquiry cleared hospital staff of blame for her teenage son's death from an apparently non-fatal injury. Glenn Dimmick died of starvation ten days after doctors failed to diagnose internal injuries received when he ran into a strip of wire while playing football.

Although Glenn, 16, continued to complain of pain in his abdomen, doctors at the Dryburn Hospital in Durham thought the symptoms were probably psychosomatic and arranged for him to see a child psychiatrist. Despite his constant vomiting and extreme weight loss, they failed to realise that bruising in his abdomen had stopped his muscles performing properly. Twice he was admitted to hospital and placed on an intravenous drip but Glenn, from Stanley, Co Durham, was discharged both times.

By the time he died from heart and respiratory failure in Shodley Bridge Hospital, his weight had dropped by three stone. Yesterday, however, an internal inquiry report said that no individuals should be disciplined over his death last May, although a number of procedures should be revised. The inquiry panel concluded that the North Durham Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, and a number of



Glenn Dimmick's internal injuries went unnoticed

members of its staff, had failed to deliver an acceptable standard of care to Glenn and his family.

His mother, Ann-Marie Mills, said: "I am disappointed with the report. People did fail, but it seems no one wants to take responsibility or apportion blame. There is no suggestion in the report that Glenn was let down, but I firmly believe he was, very badly. I think it's fair to say

we will be taking it further if we can."

Last year Geoffrey Burt, the Durham Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death due to a proper lack of care and attacked Dryburn Hospital's handling of the case. The trust has since apologised over the teenager's death, and has accepted recommendations by the panel, including extra training for staff in treating adolescents.

Record bill for sex bias case

A council paying £200,000 compensation to a former firefighter who suffered sexual harassment was ordered yesterday to pay her legal costs, estimated at £100,000. Solicitors for Tanya Clayton, 31, said the award against Hereford and Worcester County Council made her industrial tribunal the most expensive case involving one person.

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Fatal leap

A woman died after jumping from a first-floor window to escape her burning flat in Wallington, south London. A boy aged three was rescued from the same floor by firefighters wearing breathing apparatus.

Ridings head

A new head has been appointed to The Ridings school in Halifax. Anna White, 42, will take over on September 1. She has been on a six-month secondment as associate head of the school, previously named the worst in Britain.

Untimely flies

Severn Trent Water has apologised to homeowners suffering a plague of flies from a sewage works in Spondon, Derbyshire. The larvae used to break down the raw sewage are hatching because of the early spring.

Burial victory

A man has won a 14-month battle for people to be buried with their animals at his pet cemetery near St Austell, Cornwall. Terry Squires, 70, won approval from the Environment Department and has bookings from three people.

Train set on fire

Eight people were treated for smoke inhalation after arsonists set fire to a passenger train at Snowdown station, near Dover, Kent. About 50 firefighters fought the blaze on the eight-coach train for an hour on Wednesday night.

Flying squad

Police have invited schools in a campaign to try to halt the illegal killing of hen harriers by gamekeepers in Northumbria. Children are to "adopt" the eight breeding pairs, which have not raised young since 1995.

Escaper caught

A hamster is back behind bars after being on the run since August 1995. The animal, Derek, was caught when James Gordon, neighbour of owners Nestren and Maureen Karim from Newcastle, found him in his bedroom.

Battery heart patient dies after biopsy

THE second person to be given a battery-powered heart died in hospital after a biopsy for a liver infection, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ralph Lawrence, 65, died four months after he had the artificial heart inserted. The Oxford Coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, was told that death was not caused by the heart device. He recorded a verdict of misadventure.

Mr Lawrence had been offered the £65,000 heart — the size of a grapefruit — because his age and diabetes made him unsuitable for a normal transplant. He made good progress after leaving John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, but was readmitted with a fungal infection in the liver. In July last year, surgeons decided on a biopsy. Mr Lawrence died shortly after the operation. He had suffered massive bleeding in the abdomen, caused by a change in blood pressure.

Large catch keeps fish prices steady

By Daren Gregorian

FISH and shellfish prices have remained stable this week. Most varieties are in plentiful supply, apart from herring, which may be hard to find for a month until the start of the new season.

Advised promotions include: Asda: cod fillets in batter 600g for £2.85, chicken 1.8kg for £3.49. Sainsbury's: Sara Lee double chocolate gâteau for £1.99, five portions for 99p, mushrooms 500g for 89p, brussels sprouts 450g for 99p, Borden's: boneless pork leg £3.69 per kg, chicken legs £1.99 per kg, tea cakes four for 47p, eggs a dozen for 99p. Co-op (CWS): frozen extra lean minced beef 454g for £1.59, Danish butter 250g for 79p, Brazilian limes 16p each, continental salad 99p each, Walls Carre d'Or ice cream 1l for £1.99. Harrods: grilled vegetables 100g for £2.29, pumpkin tortelloni 100g for £1.99, parmigiana di melanzane £3.49 each. Iceland: skinless boneless battered cod fillets 600g for £2.99, Lean Cuisine beef lasagne 300g for 74p, diced turkey 454g for £1.49, Aunt Bessie's mini toad-in-the-hole 240g for 89p, Birds Eye baby carrots 750g for 99p. Kwik Save: Colman's English mustard 100g for 57p, Birds Eye beef stew and dumplings 283g for 97p, Allinson hi-bran medium loaf 800g for 58p, Pillsbury toaster pockets cheese & bacon pizza 300g for £1.79, Del Monte orange juice 1ltr for 77p. Marks & Spencer: rhubarb 500g for 99p, Italian ground coffee 227g for £1.99, Italian tomato sauce 300g for 75p, tomato and three cheese pizza 300g for £1.99, quiche lorraine 400g for £1.49.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Morrisons: turkey steaks £4.38 per kg, brisket of beef £3.50 per kg, braising steak £3.25 per kg, cauliflower 39p each, cantaloup melon 99p each, haddock fillet £2.19 a lb. Sainsbury's: frying steak £6.49 per kg, chicken tikka masala 340g for £1.99, boneless and skinless haddock fillets in batter 600g for £2.99, red peppers loose £1.69 per lb. Sainsbury's: frozen chicken breast 900g for £3.95, frozen prawns 400g for £3.79, cucumbers 39p each, black seedless grapes loose 74p per lb, Cornish ice cream 2l for £1.99. Somerfield: new potatoes 14p per lb, dwarf beans 250g for 69p, class A whole chicken 54p per lb, smoked trout 100g pack for £1.75, pork roaster 600g pack for £1.99. Tesco: beef steak £5.29 per kg, pork loin steaks £4.99 per kg, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, golden delicious apples 38p a lb, carrots 19p a lb. Waitrose: white potatoes 2.5kg for 75p, gala apples 99p a lb, black grapes 99p a lb, British diced braising beef 500g for £2.59, farmhouse diced veal 340g for £2.49, ripe bric 225g for £5.29, pitted black olives 350g for 85p.

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OP 11/150

RAC puts a spoke in the car driver's wheels

Kathryn Knight reports on an unexpected move to get motorists out of the driving seat and on to their bikes

THE RAC stood for "riding a cycle" yesterday as Britain's oldest motoring organisation announced a change of image. It introduced its own fold-up bike, offered a £10 membership for non-motorists and said that a fifth of all car journeys were frivolous and unnecessary.

As part of its centenary celebrations, the Royal Automobile Club's message to Britain's 23 million car owners — including its own staff — was to get on their bikes, in particular on its own new collapsible bicycle, designed to fit snugly into a car boot for use in town centres.

It is also keen to promote public transport as part of a policy overhaul, and has dropped the royal crown from its logo. RAC executives said their new theme was "mobility rather than merely motoring", to encourage motorists to use cars sensibly.

Its all-purpose steel bicycle went on sale yesterday, to help to promote a "park and cycle" policy for drivers to leave their cars on the edges of large towns and cities and ride the rest of the way. Manufactured by a Stratford-upon-Avon company, the bike was designed by Dr Alex Moulton, who designed the Moulton bike in 1962, and has similar small wheels and rubber suspension.

At 5647, the executives admit it is expensive but say that staff at its Bristol, Birmingham and London control centres will have pool

bikes. For the first time, non-motorists can join the RAC with a £10 annual fee, to receive legal cover for personal injury and damages to their bikes and clothing. In the next few years, it is also hoping to develop a smartcard to pay for all forms of transport, including taxis, parking fees and aircraft tickets.

Neil Johnson, chief executive, said the club was adapting to the needs of road users: "Our members are not just motorists. They also cycle,



Neil Johnson on the new £647 foldaway bike

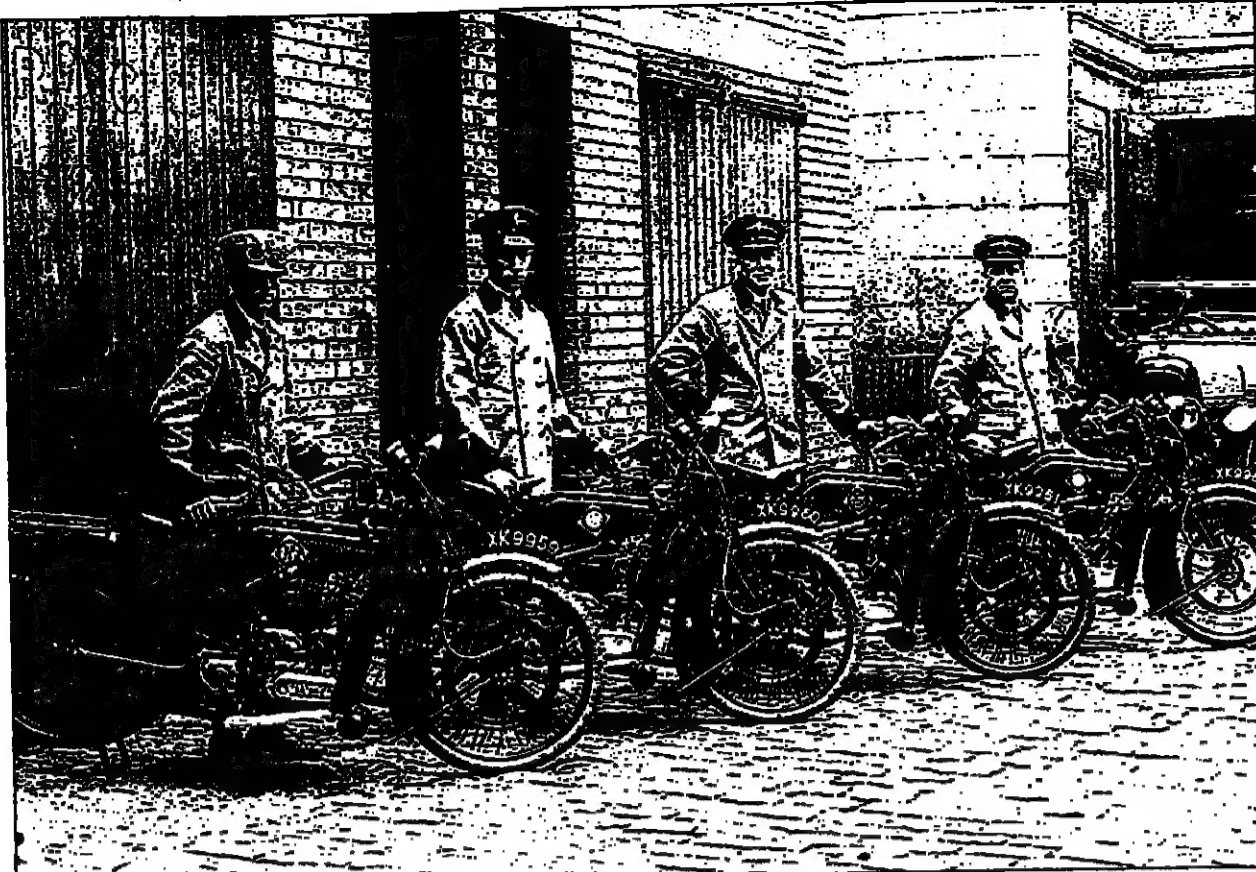
walk and use public transport. We're not saying people shouldn't use their cars, but if we don't want to sit bumper to bumper all day then something's got to give. Twenty per cent of all car journeys are frivolous and unnecessary."

Mr Johnson said the RAC would be lobbying for more money to be ploughed into public transport, especially from road tax. He said: "The Government are slumping on road repairs. We need an integrated transport system and more investment in maintenance."

To complete its new image, the club is also getting rid of the royal crown on the logo, which has been part of the RAC since it won the royal charter in 1907. The Queen will remain patron and Prince Michael of Kent the president. Mr Johnson said the RAC had written to the Queen telling her of its plans and received a letter back to say that she liked the new design.

The RAC, which is also launching a £4 million recruitment drive, announced an overhaul of its fleet of 1,500 patrol vans. The traditional red, white and blue colours are to make way for bright orange. Other changes include a non-callout discount after a successful pilot scheme earlier this year, in which members have £25 knocked off the annual subscription if they do not use the roadside assistance service during the year.

Leading article, page 21



Change of image: the RAC's prewar "knights of the road" and, below, how the badge has altered over the years



Deadly snakes kept in unlocked garage

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SNAKE collector who allegedly ran a "dial-a-snake" business from his home was banned from keeping dangerous animals for ten years yesterday and fined £350.

Magistrates at Sutton, southwest London, were told that more than 60 deadly and dangerous snakes were found in the detached, unlocked garage of Ian Ramsden's semi-detached house during a dawn raid by RSPCA officers and police.

Mark Love, for the prosecution, said a list, headed "Ian's Price List", was found at the house. It stated the prices for snakes which corresponded to many of those held by Ramsden. Also found were documents with the business name Direct Reptiles, and a telephone number that led police to a mobile phone in Ramsden's house.

Mary Graham, chairwoman of the bench, told Ramsden: "You showed a blatant disregard for the safety of others. Potentially lethal and dangerous snakes were left in an unlocked garage in a residential area."

Ramsden, 34, from Sutton, pleaded guilty to 33 counts of keeping dangerous animals without a licence and was convicted on two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. He was banned from keeping dangerous animals for not holding a licence, and fined £150. He was fined £100 for each of the two offences of causing unnecessary suffering to animals and was ordered to pay £150 costs.

Mr Love said that RSPCA inspectors found a "rogue's gallery" of snakes at Ramsden's house. Among them were the Collets tiger snake and the saw scale viper. "I understand that for these two types of snake no anti-venom is available," he said.

He added that Ramsden denied being involved in the illegal trade of buying and selling snakes.

Fans call foul as Chesterfield replay tickets sell out early

By PAUL WILKINSON

THOUSANDS of angry Chesterfield football fans failed to obtain tickets yesterday for the replay of the team's FA Cup semi-final match with Middlesbrough because they went on sale earlier than advertised.

Supporters who arrived before dawn at the Saltergate ground for the scheduled 9am opening of the ticket office found that all the 18,000 allocation had been sold 11 hours earlier. More than 8,000 other fans,

many equipped with folding chairs, camp beds and cooking gear, had come on Wednesday, prepared for an all-night vigil. But at 10pm, when traffic began choking the residential streets around the ground and some fans started getting rowdy, police advised club officials to open up.

If the east Midlands side beats the Premiership lame ducks on Tuesday, they will become the first side from what is effectively the League's third division to reach the Wembley final. Fans were relishing

the rematch after Chesterfield had shocked the Teesside team last Sunday, first with an early two-goal lead and then by an equaliser in the last minute of extra time.

One of those who failed to get tickets, Alan Gledhill, 32, a machinist from Boythorpe, Chesterfield, said: "They should have stuck to the original plans, which had been widely publicised. What's the point of telling everybody of ticket arrangements and then suddenly changing them? I was at the ground at 5.45am, more than three hours

before the tickets were supposed to go on sale. When I found out they had already gone I was furious."

Phil Sergeant, 41, who travelled from Nottingham yesterday morning, said: "People couldn't believe it when they got here, but I suppose we have to blame ourselves. I thought I was dedicated to get here now, but it turns out there were 8,000 people who were more dedicated than me."

Derbyshire police and club officials defended the decision to open early. Inspector Michael Maddin

said: "We had supporters waiting outside the club from 8am on Wednesday. By 9pm we had a large crowd there, estimated to be around 8,000 people. We had concerns, along with the club, for their own safety and the disruption to local residents."

Bill Kenworthy, the club stadium manager and safety officer, said: "It was an impossible situation. The crowd was getting restless. Those who arrived after the [first] queues were formed would not have got tickets even if we delayed selling

until 9am." But fans complained that those ahead of them had been allowed to buy up to four tickets each, when the club had previously said it would ration supporters to a pair.

They also said that their allocation for the game, at the Hillsborough ground of Sheffield Wednesday, was 4,000 fewer than for Middlesbrough fans. The unlucky supporters are demanding that Chesterfield erect a giant television screen at Saltergate to show the action live.

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I'll be back, says Hollywood's all-action hero after heart surgery raises fears for his screen future

Schwarzenegger faces up to his toughest challenge

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DOCTORS and, more vitally, public relations specialists close to Arnold Schwarzenegger insisted yesterday that the film star and muscle man would make a full recovery from unexpected heart surgery.

Hollywood's most successful action hero, long the embodiment of physical fitness, underwent treatment this week at an unidentified California hospital. An aortic valve was replaced after it was found to be weak.

Schwarzenegger, 49, who reportedly opted to have the surgery while he was "young and healthy", was resting yesterday after surgeons had sewn shut his muscular chest. His publicist, Catherine Olim, declared that the surgery was "elective" and that the Terminator actor's heart problem was congenital. A doctor was quoted as saying that the surgery was routine.

After convalescence, Schwarzenegger will be able, claimed his office, to return to his old routines. If the Hollywood "flacks" (image benders) are to be believed, this means that he will be able to go back to his violently energetic film roles, to his body preening and to smoking the big, fat cigars for whose

recent remarkable renaissance in America he is more than partly responsible. There was a distinct film industry imperative yesterday that the image of "Arnie" as the beef-crunching, cheroot-sucking hard guy and international pin-up should not be commercially affected by such an inconvenient turn of fortune.

In an Olim-ironed statement, the hospital-bound Schwarzenegger said: "I have never felt sick or had any symptoms at all, but I knew I had to take care of this condition sooner or later. I said to the doctors, 'Let's do it now, while I'm still young and healthy.' They agreed this was the way to go."

For all Ms Olim's efforts, however, the surgery was a disturbing reminder of the health problems which seem regularly to affect over-enthusiastic bodybuilders. Schwarzenegger's hugely successful film career, which has made him arguably the richest man in Hollywood, was built on his biceps. His gymnasium-tuned torso was, he has in the past admitted, assisted by the use of anabolic steroids.

There have been plenty of previous examples of muscle-men being undone by such

drugs. Last year another prominent Austrian body-builder, Andreas Munzer, who styled himself on his compatriot, died of uncontrollable internal bleeding which was attributed at least in part to the use of steroids, diuretics and other concoctions.

Such is the determination of gym fanatics to improve their physiques that many of them ignore health warnings about drugs. The world of bodybuilders is one of single-minded intent and often damaging neglect of any life beyond the weights room.

Schwarzenegger was facing a busy few weeks before the heart problem struck. At the end of next month, he is expected to tour the United States to promote his latest film, *Batman and Robin*, in which he plays the play's baddie named Mr Freeze. It now seems uncertain that he will be able to undertake such a tour so soon after major surgery.

And for all the unconvincing confidence about his condition yesterday, his big-haired, big-smiled television newscaster wife Maria Shriver, who is expecting her fourth child shortly, remained at his bedside, anxious while doctors continued to monitor the star's progress.



Career built on biceps: Schwarzenegger bulges from his costume in *Predator*



MEDICAL BRIEFING

AT THE age of 49, Arnold Schwarzenegger is young for major heart surgery. His aortic valve had become thickened and stenosed so that the blood flow through it was restricted. Doctors usually assume that a congenital cause contributes to aortic stenosis if the patient is under 70 and there is no evidence of rheumatic fever.

Schwarzenegger has said that his problem is the result of a congenital malformation, but with the lifestyle he has enjoyed it is highly probable that other, acquired, causes will have contributed. As well as being an actor, he owns a chain of restaurants. Apparently he has been told to resist temptation and refrain from rich, fat-laden meals, and smoking.

His admitted misuse of anabolic steroids is just as likely to have produced high levels of the pernicious low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and low levels of the cardio-protective high density cholesterol, which will have contributed to his condition, as years of eating steaks and fried potatoes.

Although the increased risk of coronary heart disease, and other atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, was described as the most serious side-effect of the misuse of anabolic steroids in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* in 1991, there are many other complications. Anabolic steroids can cause damage to the liver, to the point at which varicose veins will develop in the oesophagus, which, if

Steroids, cigars and steak have not helped

they burst, produce catastrophic bleeding.

One survey of steroid-using bodybuilders showed that 25 per cent suffered severe changes to their personality. The envy of 10st weaklings for bodybuilders is misplaced, because their muscles may conceal a diminished manhood. Anabolic steroids in excess cause testicular shrinkage, degeneration of the seminiferous tubules in the testes and infertility.

Gynecomastia — large breasts — are common side-effects in men. Their potency may be temporarily increased but, after continued use of steroids, it lapses. Even the initial boost can be hazardous as priapism is an occasional complication.

In an untreated case of priapism, the erection may last so long that the mechanism which achieves it is destroyed, never to work again, rather like the fruit tree which is supposed to have the best display of blossom ever before it dies.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Two drinks a day keep the doctor away, but the odd tipple can kill

BY IAN MURRAY

REGULAR moderate drinking reduces the danger of heart attacks, but an occasional tipple or a weekly binge can be dangerous, according to a ten-year study.

Researchers in Australia found that a couple of drinks a day for most of the week were likely to prevent an attack, but one or two drinks on rare occasions could kill or cause serious illness. Just as much at risk were people who drank nothing all week but downed 13 measures — the equivalent of 6½

pints of beer — on a Saturday night.

Research has already shown that alcohol reduces the risk of clots by thinning the blood. But these studies have grouped together people with totally different drinking habits because their weekly intake was the same.

The research by the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, published in the *British Medical Journal* today, is the first to look at the different effects of alcohol on those who drink a small amount regularly and those who drink a

large amount occasionally. The statistical study was part of a World Health Organisation project, based on 11,500 cases of people who had suffered a heart attack and a random sample of 6,000 others who had not. The statistics were adjusted for factors such as age, smoking and medical history.

The team found that, as a general rule, alcohol consumption had a protective effect for 24 hours. Men who drank up to four units a day and women who drank half that amount had a lower risk of a

coronary than those who drank only once a week. The risk increased again if consumption exceeded those amounts.

The researchers said: "Caution is needed in promoting alcohol consumption because the adverse effects of abuse may well outweigh any potentially beneficial effect in reducing heart disease."

Another report in the journal said that government guidelines suggesting that people could drink a little more to reduce the risk of heart attacks had led to an increase in heavy drinkers. Any savings to

the National Health Service in reducing the number of heart-attack patients had been wiped out by the amount that would have to be spent on the medical problems of people suffering from drinking too much, it said.

Sensible Drinking, the Health Department advice issued in 1995, increased the recommended daily level of alcohol by one unit to help to reduce blood clots forming. A unit equals half a pint of beer, a glass of wine or a measure of spirits. This put up the level from three units to four for men and two

units to three for women. Researchers at University College London and the University of Bristol said this advice had led to a 6.3 per cent increase in the number of men drinking above the recommended level. Among women there was a 3.4 per cent increase.

The researchers, who based their findings on government figures, said the assumption that heavy drinkers were not affected by average drinking levels was wrong. "Our analysis suggests that this is not the case and that a higher than average consumption among mod-

erate drinkers is associated with higher rates of heavy drinking and problem drinking. Overall the greatest burden of alcohol related problems is among the large group of moderate drinkers at low risk than the smaller number of people at high risk."

Within the national figure there were wide regional variations in the proportion of people drinking above the government recommended limits. One in three men in the North came into this category, compared with one in five in East Anglia.

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Redwood aide is driving Tory revolt

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE mastermind behind a campaign to give Conservative candidates cash for flouting the Government line on the single currency is John Redwood's chief aide, it emerged last night.

Hywel Williams is organising the campaign, financed by the Yorkshire millionaire Paul Sykes, to give candidates money if they oppose a single currency in their election leaflets. By last night 247 Tory candidates had either received financial support or had applied for it from Mr Sykes, who is a property developer.

Mr Redwood's Wokingham constituency, which is one of the safest Tory seats in the country, was one of the first to benefit from the generosity of Mr Sykes, who is one of Britain's 100 richest men.

The funding initiative by Mr Sykes, which he announced shortly before the general election, created a stampede. Each Conservative association is being given up to £2,500. Associations that have benefited include Harrogate, whose candidate is Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, who was a key supporter of the Redwood leadership campaign.

Mr Major's supporters privately blame Mr Sykes, who contributed £200,000 to Conservative Party funds last year, for fuelling the flames of the Eurosceptic revolt. The growing number of candidates, including ministers, prepared to breach the carefully crafted government line, was a direct cause of the Tory turmoil over Europe, this week.

Although Mr Redwood has not been personally involved,

the fact that the chief of staff of a party leadership contender organised the move, which has wreaked havoc on the party's election campaign, will dismay John Major loyalists.

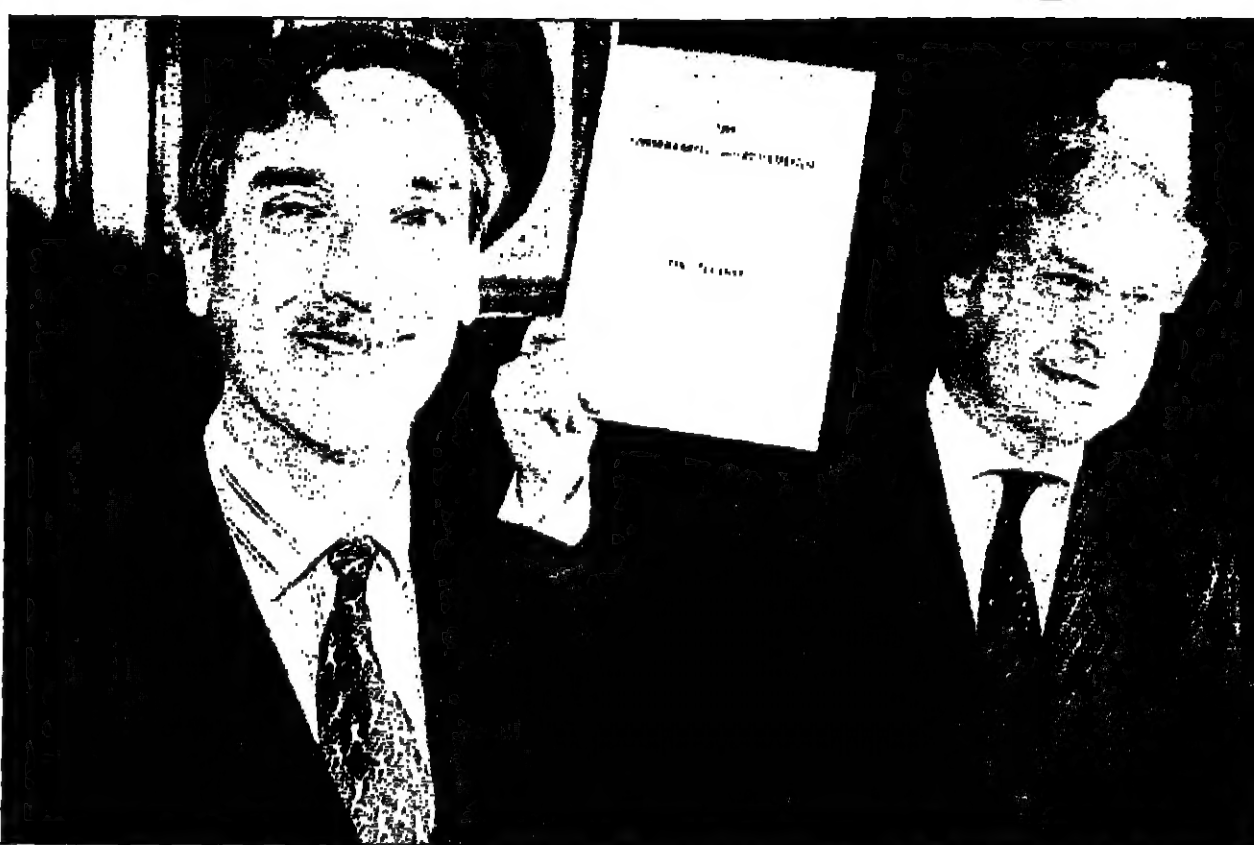
Mr Redwood, who has been assiduously loyal to the Prime Minister so far during the general election campaign, broke cover for the first time yesterday when he became the first senior Tory to criticise Mr Major's stance on the European single currency. The move put him at the head of the growing revolt against the Government's single currency position.

In the first public signs of the rift among Eurosceptic Tories for the party leadership in the event of a Conservative defeat on May 1, Michael Portillo rebuked Mr Redwood on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. The Defence Secretary also reminded listeners that Mr Redwood had been involved in a leadership contest with the Prime Minister and lost.

Mr Williams, who runs the Conservative 2000 Foundation, which he set up with Mr Redwood to promote a populist right-wing agenda, said last night that he had persuaded Mr Sykes not to abandon the Conservatives for the Referendum Party and instead to spend about £600,000 in trying to smoke out candidates prepared to oppose the single currency publicly in their election literature.

Mr Williams, who made clear that his action was nothing to do with Mr Redwood, said: "The initiative by Paul Sykes has shown where the Conservative Party stands and where its future lies."

Mr Redwood went public



John Redwood, left, with Hywel Williams, an aide who is masterminding the Tory revolt over the euro

with his criticism, shared privately by many Thatcherite Tories, because he judged that the mood in the party had swung his way.

Friends of Mr Major said that in the event of a heavy election defeat, he would delay his resignation as party leader if he thought it would upset Mr Redwood's leadership ambitions. Last night, however, friends of Mr Redwood conspicuously failed to deny that they would be ready for a leadership contest on May 2.

Portillo loyalty, page 10

More Tories join euro rebellion

A FURTHER 46 Conservative candidates have declared themselves against a single European currency in interviews or election literature: 223 candidates have made clear they will not vote for a single currency.

The businessman Paul Sykes said yesterday that 247 Conservatives had accepted his offer of funds to cover election expenses if candidates would rule out voting for the euro.

The new euro-sceptics are:

Mark Allen, Jarrow; David Amess, Southend West; Richard Ashworth, North Dorset; Andrew Baker, Ceredigion; David Barnes, Islington South and Finsbury; Myrle Boal, Belfast South; Nick Campbell, Yeovil; Hugh Craig-Hall, Livingston; Michael Cowlin, Romsey; Simon Coombe, South Swindon; Andrew Cumpsty, Copeland; Paul Fleming, Wythenshawe and Sale East; Eric Forth, Bromley and Chislehurst; James Gray, North Wiltshire; Mike Scott Heywood, Edinburgh Central; John Hartman, Sheffield Heeley; Andrew Hayes, Llanelli; Ken Hind, Selby; Philip Hammond, Runcorn and Wirral; Tony Johnson, Plymouth Devonport; Roger Knappman, Stroud; Les Leek, Walsall

South: Robert Light, Halesowen; Steve Lewis, Angus; Oliver Letwin, West Dorset; Michael Lord, Central Suffolk; Robert Key, Salisbury; Brian Kneesh, Nottingham South; Simon Maffei, York; Rupert Matthews, Bournemouth; Forest of Dean; Ian Martin, Croydon North; Gordon McIntosh, Hamilton North and Bellshill; John Mitchell, Dumfries and Galloway; Margaret Mitchell, Cullinstown; Sir Michael Neuberger, Romford; Patrick Nicholson, Teignbridge; Martin Pottier, Chesterfield; Neil Power, Dundee West; Stephen Reid, Eastleigh; Stuart Rendon, Lagan Valley; Mary Scanlon, Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber; Hugo Swire, Greenwich and Inverclyde; David Summers, Bury South; Douglas Taylor, Jarrow; John Timpson and Loudoun; Edward Wild, Leeds Central.

Heseltine adrift on the airwaves

RADIO WATCH: Peter Barnard

I WAS obliged to take two aspirin and lie down in a darkened room for a few minutes last night. I am better now, although the ringing in the ears persists.

Listening to John Major on the radio at various times during the first part of the day, and then listening to Michael Heseltine on the radio in the evening, had done me in.

Not that I am complaining. Nor that anyone should complain. After all, those of us who heard that John Major was minded to give backbenchers a free vote on the single currency spent several hours occupying a most privileged position: we seemed to know more about Tory policy than did the Deputy Prime Minister.

When Charlie Lee-Potter, joint presenter of Radio 4's *PM* programme, said: "We are joined now from Westminster by Michael Heseltine," the expectation was of a routine interview designed to flesh out Mr Major's indication of a free vote on the euro.

Lee-Potter asked if Mr Heseltine was as unaware as Kenneth Clarke had seemed to be earlier in day of Mr Major's announcement. The blue touch paper was not long alight before the air around Mr Heseltine

was alive with starbusts. One feared for his hair. "Well he didn't, did he... what I find extraordinary about the coverage of this campaign... journalists trivialising the issues."

Mr Heseltine thought he had a trump card: a transcript of what Mr Major had said at the morning press conference, to wit that the possibility of a free vote was "a decision that could be taken at the time". But it was soon clear that Mr Heseltine was unaware of Mr Major's later remark that "if the voters get a chance to vote on it via a referendum", then so should MPs.

"Why are you misquoting the Prime Minister?" Mr Heseltine wanted to know. And: "You are grossly distorting what he said." One could visualise Mr Heseltine, bent over a microphone in Westminster, waving his transcript. But transcripts at election time are like London taxis: there is always another one on the way. You just have to make sure you flag it down.

One wonders whether the well-oiled Labour machine would allow Mr Blair to announce a policy without bothering to tell John Prescott. On balance, it seemed unlikely.

Free vote may expose sceptics as Parliament's noisy minority

JOHN MAJOR's offer of a free vote to Tory MPs on the single currency got a swift and predictable welcome from the Euro-sceptics yesterday.

But the most avid pro-Europeans in both parties were far from dismayed by it. They were pointing out yesterday that the biggest decision of all on Europe - Parliament's decision in 1971 to enter at the end of the following year - came after a free Tory vote. "They do not know it but this is terrible, terrible news for the sceptics," one said.

He was clearly exaggerating. But the pro-Europeans do believe that a decision to

It was Edward Heath's use of the free vote in 1971 that took Britain into Europe in the first place, Philip Webster writes

go into a single currency could only ever be taken if what they call the natural pro-European majority in Parliament is mobilised with Labour and the Liberal Democrats lining up with sympathetic Tories.

In the Commons which was dissolved this month half the Tory party might have been considered Eurosceptic, but only one fifth of Labour MPs and only one Liberal Demo-

crat MP are sceptics. The overall balance is unlikely to change much after the election. If there are more Tory Eurosceptics they will almost certainly be balanced by more Labour pro-Europeans.

Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office Minister and confidant of Mr Major, said earlier this year that, with hindsight, perhaps the biggest mistake the Government had made over Maastricht was not to seek to assemble that majority but to whip it through.

Perhaps Mr Major had that in mind when he told his press conference yesterday that if a Tory Cabinet did ever decide it was right to go into a single currency it would be for parliament then to decide. The Conservative party would take its own decision, but the one that mattered, he clearly implied, was that of Parliament.

The argument is that if the Tories give themselves a free vote, it is easier for the pro-Europeans in the other parties to come to their aid. That was how it happened over arguably the most important House of Commons vote since the war.

In the autumn of 1971 Edward Heath, then Prime Minister, wanted to get backing for entry to the European Community through on the votes of its own supporters rather than relying on the Opposition.

But he had only a majority of 25 at the time. There were some 40 immovable anti-Europeans on his own side, of whom the most outspoken and compelling was Enoch Powell.

With the vote due on October 28, Mr Heath was still insisting as late as October 11 that a free vote was out of the question. But Francis Pym, the Chief Whip, knew that he could not guarantee to deliver Mr Heath the majority he so dearly sought.

Mr Pym felt that he had a better chance of bringing over the substantial body of Labour pro-Europeans if the Tories themselves were voting freely. It was at a meeting at the Commons on October 18 that Mr Pym, his predecessor William Whitelaw, Tony Barber, his Chancellor, and Lord Carrington finally persuaded Mr Heath to relent.

The tactic, even though Mr Heath gave in grudgingly and from a position of weakness, was to work to perfection. He got the credit for seeking a true expression of the will of the House.

Harold Wilson, the Labour leader, defied expectations and refused to grant a free vote on his side. But it was the fact that the Government had not whipped which allowed Roy Jenkins and 68 other Labour pro-Europeans to defy their own masters while feeling that they were not supporting the Government of the day.

The vote for entry was carried by 356 votes to 244, a majority of 112. Some 39 Tories voted against, with two abstaining; 69 Labour MPs voted for entry and 20 abstained.

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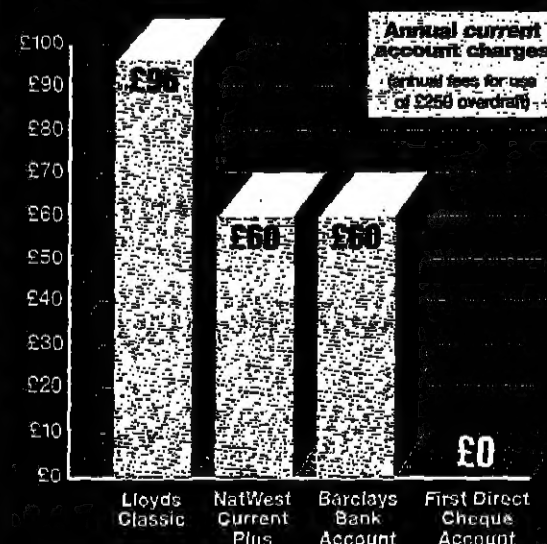
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Beware: candidate's mother at large

"HALF-WAY through the 1992 general election campaign," Mark Mason writes in this month's *Oldie*, "Francis Maude, the defending Conservative candidate in N Warwickshire, was enjoying a pub lunch with his team."

"One of them leant across to him. 'Don't want to alarm you, Francis, but I saw an old Morris Traveller touring the lanes this morning.' Within seconds, Maude was on the mobile phone to his headquarters: 'I have reason to believe,' he told them, 'that my mother is at large in the constituency.'"

Lady Maude is 82. Mr Maude is now standing for Horsham. He will win 42,410 people voted Conservative there last time. And his mother? "She still has that Morris Traveller," one of his team told me. "She tends to organise her own itinerary. She's out canvassing for Francis now."

"Once you've been canvassed by my mother," Mr Maude said ruefully, "you stay canvassed."



Tory candidate Francis Maude has a secret weapon — his mother, campaigning at the age of 82. Matthew Parris looked for her in vain

"So I'll put you down as a 'don't know,' shall I?" Was the story true? "Quite possibly," Mr Maude said. I asked where she was. "Er, somewhere in the, er, extreme west of the constituency," he said, slightly shyly. I thought. We were in the extreme east. One had the distinct impression that

orders had gone out to prevent the press reaching Lady Maude. Your sketchwriter, respectful of people's mothers (and mindful of the time when my own told my constituents she was really a Liberal) gave up, and followed her son instead. It came as something of a shock to be reminded just how Conservative parts of England remain. Within minutes of leaving the train, I had spotted blue Tory posters. Maude and his team, preparing for an afternoon's canvass over lunch at the Half Moon in Balcombe,

were doing this out of duty rather than need. A magnificent lady, obviously in charge, was taking the opportunity to arrange after-dinner speakers for Conservative functions. "I can seat about 80 at home," she said, in a matter-of-fact way. "If you want us to find a peer, tell us, and we'll find a peer."

I discussed with her the social mix in the constituency, the borders of Crawley being less grand: private housing estates. "They've spent money on shrubs," she said kindly.

We were worried about public transport in an area where most but not all owned their own cars. "People need excitement," she said. "I get mine hunting: youths smash up phone boxes. It's really the same."

We departed to canvass. "Hop in," said a splendid gentleman. "I've had the Volvo decked out in Tory colours. See these stickers on



Maude can count on maternal support

the roof? I've been assured they'll come off." Many citadels have been stormed by new Labour: a crunchy gravel drive, a BMW, a second home... but the category of those who still say "off", and the category of those who vote for Tony Blair, overlap

— if at all — only at the margin.

As we walked down The Old Hollow (Mr Maude, sporting a big blue rosette, drivers flashed their lights and gave him the thumbs-up. Mowers mowed, sprinklers sprinkled, and, from behind, barges of rhododendrons, deep woods disturbed the birdsong. This was big dog country. At the first home we canvassed, set in a wide lawn, a friendly, retired couple complained about pensions and local boundaries.

Mr Maude listened to their criticisms. "I don't think we'll be voting Tory this time," the husband concluded.

Mr Maude looked at me, disheartened that our first call had proved negative. But I drew a different conclusion. Such people tell pollsters they will support the Government. I had the strongest impression that, on the day, they will.

SIMON WEAVER

Portillo shows the quality of loyalty is not strained

AS HE munches his steak and kidney pie, Michael Portillo does not sound like a Cabinet minister two weeks from widely expected resignation to the Opposition.

Sitting with four of his local helpers in Ye Olde Cherry tree, an ancient pub in his north London constituency, the Defence Secretary exudes the bounce and self assurance of a man on a roll.

The glow could, of course, be due to his near certain victory in Enfield and Southgate, the strong Tory seat that he has held since 1984, but it would be hard not to detect a hint of something else. The latest surge of party anguish over Europe has not hindered his efforts to present himself as the voice of reasoned Euroscepticism in the Conservative front ranks. That credential may be essential for any future party leader.

Mr Portillo was sitting his every word through the loyalty strainer as he pondered Europe and his opposition to any further integration over his half pint of bitter. The "imminent danger" to Britain stemmed from next June's Amsterdam summit on a new Union treaty, he said. So what would he do in Amsterdam if



Michael Portillo believes that his brand of Euroscepticism puts him in the Conservative mainstream, writes Charles Bremner

he were prime minister? "I would say no to all the things that are listed in the Conservative manifesto... page 46," he replied with a wry smile.

Could he ever back British conversion to the euro? "I couldn't be clearer in my support for the Prime Minister. He is right to have that policy since he won the leadership election on it."

Only once did Mr Portillo let the guard slip a little. Did he feel that his brand of Euroscepticism was now shared by the majority in the party? "I feel pretty mainstream," he said.

Personally bound to discretion, Mr Portillo called on the four constituency workers as an example of how worried people were about losing sovereignty to Brussels. All chimed in with strong views on the threat to Britain and its

way of life. "They're trying to take away everybody's identity and national pride and make people all the same," said Inese Alvars, one of his campaigners. Maggie Tahmasebi, her colleague, wholeheartedly agreed. The talk was not about the merits of the single currency, but about whether Britain should have any place at all in a European Union.

Free from any ministerial entourage, he drove his campaign van, a rust-coloured Renault with a precarious loudspeaker rack tied on with string. The long grey double-breasted overcoat added to the impression of a man trying to look a decade older than his 43 years. Like most middle-aged candidates, he has learned the names of all the Spice Girls.

Most of the shopkeepers and passers-by in Palmer's

Green were either from Cyprus or points further east. None brought up Europe as they shook his hand, but questioned, most said Britain should stay out of the single currency. "He's put his foot down on Europe and he's absolutely right to do it," said Homero Nikiforo, head waiter at a restaurant on Mr Portillo's path.

His backing from much of the big immigrant population in the constituency serves the argument of the half-Spanish minister that his crusade is not fuelled by a little England xenophobia. "I react strongly against the charge of xenophobia," he says. "It's exactly the opposite. It's because we are so international in our thinking that we can't accept a federal Europe."

So strong is Mr Portillo in Enfield, that he is devoting much of his effort to campaigning to save the electoral life of Ian Twinn, the Conservative who holds the neighbouring seat of Edmonton by a tiny majority of less than 600. As far as his own future is concerned the Defence Secretary is silent. "I'm not prepared to talk about things not working out on May 1. They will and they must."



Michael Portillo in his constituency yesterday

Sutch pulls out to nurse his mother

SCREAMING Lord Sutch is to miss his first general election for 33 years to nurse his 81-year-old mother (Carol Midgley writes). Annie, the mother of the leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party, broke her hip in a fall.

Lord Sutch first stood for Parliament in 1964 in Stratford-on-Avon and was this time to have challenged John Major in Huntingdon. But in recent weeks he has been at the hospital bedside of his mother. "This is the first time I have missed a general election since 1964 but when you have family they come first," he said. "Ever since she fell, I have had my mind on her and can't concentrate on politics."

"She's had an operation but there have been complications, and at that age, bones take a long time to heal."

Lord Sutch, whose real name is David, was brought up as an only child by his mother after his father, a policeman, was killed during the war by a bomb.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister said that he would miss Lord Sutch. "He is a national institution. At the last election

he was by far the most intelligent opponent."

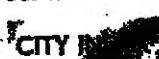
Alan Hope, the party's spokesman, speaking from his headquarters, a pub in Devon, said that the leader was very disappointed. "He hasn't got the spirit or inclination at the moment. He will bounce back though for the next election. We do have 36 candidates standing around the country though I think we are being out-looked by the main parties."



Sutch: hoping to return at the next election

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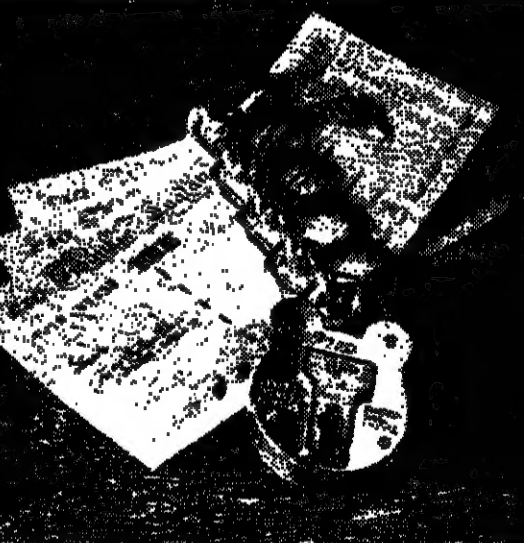
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BMA chief derides 'pathetic' pledge of £100m for NHS

By Jill Sherman and James Landale

LABOUR's plans to spend £100 million on reducing NHS waiting lists were yesterday dismissed as "frankly pathetic" by the chairman of the British Medical Association, Sandy Macara.

Mr Blair argued that the Tories would destroy the NHS through creeping privatisation, longer waiting lists and increased bureaucracy. At a rally in Edinburgh last night, the Labour leader said that a fifth Tory term of office would give the party a "licence to kill" the health service. He added that the Government's reforms were strangling the NHS and insisted that the service would be safe only in Labour's hands.

But Dr Macara said that Labour offered no better solution than the Tories. Asked

THE LABOUR CAMPAIGN

about Mr Blair's £100 million pledge, Dr Macara said: "It's frankly pathetic — but no more pathetic than the others. There is just a total failure by any of the parties to recognise that we need to face the fact that the NHS has always been and remains chronically underfunded."

Interviewed on Radio 4's *World at One*, Dr Macara said he was impressed that Labour was looking at ways of saving money by changing the system, but pointed out that the Tories had a head start. He also emphasised that savings were limited. "I do not believe that changes by themselves will save significant funds."

The BMA, which represents 115,500 doctors, has rarely criticised Labour in the past 15

years. At the last two elections, Labour said it would make up underfunding in the NHS. In 1992 it promised an extra £1 billion in the first 22 months of government, and to restore free dental and eye checks.

This year Labour has pledged no more money than the Tories, other than switching £100 million from bureaucracy to frontline care. Some £40 million has already been pledged for cancer services.

Dr Macara, BMA chairman for the last four years, said that doctors would step up their demands for extra funds if Labour was elected. But his comments contrasted sharply with those of John Marks, a former BMA chairman, who was on the platform at Labour's press conference yesterday morning.

Dr Marks, chairman between 1984 and 1990, insisted that if the Tories were elected the NHS would be destroyed. "We no longer have a truly national health service — we have 400 localised squabbling services in which patients lie on trolleys because there are no beds."

Mr Blair told the rally: "If the Tories get back for a fifth term, they will believe they have a licence to do whatever they want." He told the Tories: "Stop pretending you believe in the NHS when everything you do is undermining the NHS. Stop saying you value the NHS when you are cutting the number of nurses left, right and centre, and bringing in managers to replace them. Stop saying the NHS is safe in your hands when your reforms are slowly strangling it to death."

Tessa Jowell, Shadow Health Minister, announced that Labour would spend £10 million on top of an existing allocation of £30 million to help with diagnosing and treating breast cancer. Labour would create a nationwide network of one-stop teams for breast cancer diagnosis, so that all tests could be done on the same day.

Jennifer's family reject 'ear' replay

THE family of the girl used as the basis for the 1992 Labour election broadcast that provoked "The Battle of Jennifer's Ear" has rejected a suggestion by Conservatives to let the case be used again.

It was suggested that the girl's experience might be used to show how Labour "scaremongered" over hospital waiting-lists. Her grandfather, Peter Lee Roberts, prominent in the Conservative Party in Kent, made clear the family wanted to protect Jennifer, who is now ten. The family blame the political fracas for the break-up of the girl's parents.

During the 1992 campaign, Jennifer's father, John Bennett, contacted the Labour Party to tell of

how his daughter had waited for more than a year for a routine operation for glue ear at her local hospital. The grandfather realised that the broadcast referred to Jennifer's case and approached Conservative Central Office to contest Labour's story.

Jennifer's mother Margaret, a Conservative supporter, argued with her partner over the broadcast and dismissed Labour's claims as lies. The fracas was in the news for days.

One Conservative in Faversham said: "There was mention of looking at Jennifer's case to show up the lies that were told about waiting-lists in this area but we realised the upset this would cause and scrapped the idea."

Dishonesty is not the cure for ailing system

LABOUR's campaign on the health service is disreputable and dishonest. It grossly exaggerates both the alleged "crisis" in the NHS and the scope for improvements under any Labour Government.

This will probably not matter electorally since health is one of the party's strongest issues with voters. But party leaders should not be allowed to get away with the negative tactics and "old" Labour sloganeering that they have so eagerly condemned this week.

The "14 days to save the NHS" charge is vacuous. It is nonsense to suggest, as John Prescott has, that the NHS would be "destroyed" if the Tories were re-elected. Of course, there is plenty of argument about the adequacy of funding and the operation of the internal market and GP



PETER RIDDELL

fundholding. But it is irresponsible scaremongering to allege, as Mr Prescott did, that "you won't get treated unless you can pay for it". There is no suggestion that the Tories will

introduce charges for visits to doctors or going to hospital, nor will it run down NHS services to encourage/force people into the private sector, as has occurred with dentistry. Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, developed a more subtle line of criticism. He talked of a shift to privatisation by allowing family doctors to be employed by commercial organisations and clinical services to be provided by the private sector. There is room for argument about whether this would provide care more efficiently, or would affect relationships between patients and doctors, but the use of the term "privatisation" is misleading since such changes would not undermine the basic principle of a "free at the point of use" service.

The much trumpeted special election pledge in Labour's manifesto to release £100 million from administration to cut hospital waiting lists by 100,000 is a trivial gimmick in the context of a NHS budget which is due to rise by £1.19 billion this year to more than £34 billion. As Dr Sandy Macara of the BMA commented, the pledge is "frankly pathetic".

Whatever criticisms may be made of the Tory health changes, spending has risen substantially every year. Apart from its £100 million pledge, Labour has not promised to spend any more than the Tories.

The Liberal Democrats have been candid enough to admit the funding dilemma and propose earmarked revenue for the NHS. But Labour's reluctance to consider increases in taxation (other than the windfall levy on the utilities) and coolness to many efficiency initiatives undermine the party's pledge to deliver a better NHS.

The Tories have only managed to raise spending every year by taking measures to save money on other programmes which Labour has opposed. Labour's current health policy is mainly vague aspiration and gesture politics.

John Burnett

John Burnett, Liberal Democrat candidate for Torridge and West Devon, is (contrary to a report, April 16) a farmer and cattle breeder.



The Labour Party's latest campaign video, aimed at attracting first-time voters, signs off with a message from the leader, Tony Blair

Blair puts his shirt on winning youth vote

Ben Macintyre thinks the young will like the language of Labour's video: there is none

THE Labour Party has produced a campaign video designed to lure first-time voters with a simple but powerful message: vote now. Labour and total strangers will shower you with love in the streets of Islington.

The three-minute video, premiered at Labour's Millbank Tower headquarters yesterday, begins by zooming in on a doormat on which lies a copy of *The Sun* announcing the arrival of election day. No, insisted Mo Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on youth, the choice was in no way connected with *The Sun's* endorsement of Tony Blair.

To the soundtrack of D-Ream's *Things Can Only Get Better*, a handsome young man wearing the casual uniform of new Labour —

open-necked light blue shirt with button-down collar, belted cream slacks — reads his paper, eats his toast, picks up his polling card and heads off to do his democratic duty.

As he walks along, the card flies out of his hand into the road. He dashes to retrieve it and is almost flattened by an elderly motorist. Instead of accelerating over him in a fit of road rage, the old chap's face lights up when he sees who is going to vote. He beams and raises his thumb.

The same ecstatic reaction greets our hero on the high street: a pretty girl spontaneously buys him a bunch of red roses; a yoo! getting his hair dyed pink leaps from the barber's chair to wave and cheer; clean and trendy young people outside a café

swoon and applaud as he passes. For it transpires that there are two identically clad blue-shirted fellows walking side by side. There is the one with the poor road sense, and there is the other one, whose face is not revealed as he marches past.

Who is this mystery man, who has such a galvanic effect on the granny in the polling station? Why does the Conservative candidate (suited, bespectacled, square) look so dejected as the man sweeps in, now trailed by a bevy of bimbos and a lot of balloons?

Suddenly, and not entirely pleasantly, we get a close-up shot into his ear and of a lock of hair. What began as a Gap commercial has become a *Question of Style*. I reckon it's Glenn Hoddle, David. Then we get a single

pale eye, with a strangely dilated pupil. Can it be Will Self?

But no. The camera pans upwards to reveal that the novice voter's doppelgänger, the man adored by punks and pensioners alike. It is Tony Blair himself. He grins wordlessly. "Do it" is scrawled across the screen, followed by the Labour leader's signature.

Dr Mowlam said that "tens of thousands" of the videos would be sent to all Labour candidates for showing in youth clubs and schools.

Labour's visual pitch comes in a language the video generation can understand: there is no language. But there is a subliminal sartorial slogan: under new Labour, smart shirts will be for the many, not the few.

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Crispin Blunt, who has said that a Tory "donkey" could win in Reigate

Gardiner promises to make a donkey out of his Tory rival

Michael Evans meets a rejected former MP who refuses to let go

SIR GEORGE GARDINER, deselected Tory and second biggest star of the Referendum Party, is convinced that he has his Conservative rival on the run and is fully expecting to get his revenge on the "toffee-nosed tendency" in the Reigate constituency.

Crispin Blunt, a former soldier (13th/18th Royal Hussars) and special adviser to Malcolm Rifkind, rashly joked at his selection meeting that a donkey could stand as Conservative in Reigate and still win. Animals are one of Sir George's strong points. His campaign leaflet depicts him being lavishly licked by a bulldog, just to underline his self-image as a man who will fight for the interests of his country rather than those of a European superstate.

"I won't let Crispin Blunt forget his donkey remark. He may have been joking but he has made an ass of himself

and I think I've got him on the run," Sir George said yesterday over a pint in a pub near his headquarters in Reigate's main street.

After 23 years as Tory MP for Reigate, Sir George was deselected over his perceived disloyalty to John Major. He had demanded that the Prime Minister "get off the fence" and declare his opposition to a single currency.

"There is a faction in the Conservative constituency association I call the toffee-nosed tendency. They can't stand to have an MP with a mind of his own," he said.

Now, as the Reigate candidate for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, he predicts that his vindication is just two weeks away. He said: "I have people working for Crispin Blunt who will vote for me. It's like having a fifth column in my rival's office."



Gardiner mocks the "toffee-nosed tendency"

captain who won the Queen's Medal at Sandhurst, the prize for the best regular officer. Is not complacent about his anticipated victory, despite his "donkey" comment (which he regrets). At the Tory constituency office in Redhill, he said: "George had a lot of people who were loyal to him but he committed political suicide."

Mr Blunt insisted that his views on Europe were not so far adrift from those held by the man he replaced. He said he could not envisage the

present Cabinet making a collective decision to recommend Britain joining the single currency in the near future, "so it won't happen".

It was right, however, for Mr Major to stick to the wait-and-see policy as a negotiating tactic. "When I explain that to the people on the doorstep, they understand," he said.

Sir George accused him of trying to sound Euro-sceptic. "We're miles apart on Europe," he said. Sir George and Mr Blunt had their best

chance to persuade the younger generation of their differing views on Europe when they attended a debate at the local comprehensive school yesterday with four other candidates.

Sir George said he had joined the Referendum Party because he wanted to stop Britain becoming part of a federal Europe. "But I'm still a Tory at heart, as I always have been."

He remains a member of the local Tory constituency party. If he beats Mr Blunt on May 1 and is elected as MP for Reigate for the Referendum Party, he foresees a time when he could re-apply for the Tory whip. "I resigned the Tory whip. I didn't lose it," he said.

Sir George sees Tory seats "falling like ninepins" on May 1 and predicted a Labour majority of at least 50.

Mr Blunt is afraid that a Labour government would do enormous damage to the Armed Forces which would have to be repaired "all over again" by a future Conservative government.

Welsh veteran raises hope of gain in seats

PLAID CYMRU

IT IS 17 years since Gwynfor Evans threatened to shove himself to death for a Welsh language television channel (Valerie Elliott writes). It was a deliberate ploy to raise the morale of his party after the referendum defeat on devolution.

Today the former Plaid Cymru MP and Grand Old Gentleman of Welsh nationalism has new frontiers to conquer. Mr Evans will be 85 this year but his vision for a separate Welsh nation remains as clear as ever.

His immediate hope is for Plaid Cymru to add to its four MPs and become the second largest party in Wales.

This election, however, is particularly nostalgic for Mr Evans. His former Carmar-

then seat has disappeared and Carmarthen Town Hall, scene of historic knife-edge election counts, will no longer feature in election-night broadcasts.

However poignant the change, Mr Evans says it is better for Plaid. Carmarthen had a solid Labour vote.

This time the action has shifted to Carmarthen East and Dinefwr where Rhodri Glyn Thomas for Plaid will attempt to topple Labour's Dr Alan Williams. The other seat, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, will be a fight again between Plaid's Roy Llewellyn and the former Labour MP Nick Ainger. Mr Evans is convinced Plaid can win the seats if the Liberals and Tories vote tactically.

He was scathing about Labour's assembly plan for Wales and indignant that Wales should be treated so differently from Scotland. The assembly proposed by Labour would have no legislative or tax-raising powers.

An immediate target, however, is to make Welsh the official language. It was given parity with English in the Welsh Language Act 1967. The cause of Welsh has a new ally - digital television. "It will have so many advantages. Welsh-speaking people in England will be able to see Welsh programmes. Welsh television will be shown on the continent..." Perhaps a Welsh voice in Europe is not far off.



Gwynfor Evans: still campaigning at 84

THE MANIFESTO

PLAID CYMRU has produced the most radical manifesto of any substantial party, pledging a 2p rise in income tax to create 100,000 jobs in Wales. Plaid wants a "Powerhouse Parliament" for Wales with law-making and tax-raising powers. Self-government would be achieved in five years, then independent Wales would decide by referendum whether the Queen or the Prince of Wales should remain head of state. The social programme would cost £550 million and

would cost an average household in Wales an extra £275 a year. The reinking of pensions to earnings, an increase from £62 to £83 a week, would be funded by abolishing the nuclear deterrent. The party would raise £160 million from a new standard rate of 25p, £180 million from a new top rate of 50p, £90 million from ending the upper limit on National Insurance contributions, £60 million from a windfall tax on utilities and £90 million from other tax adjustments.

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BORN MAYES



Lady Williams yesterday. She retains great enthusiasm for the hustings and relishes her 18-hour days

Major trying to lead two parties, says Ashdown

THE LIB DEM CAMPAIGN

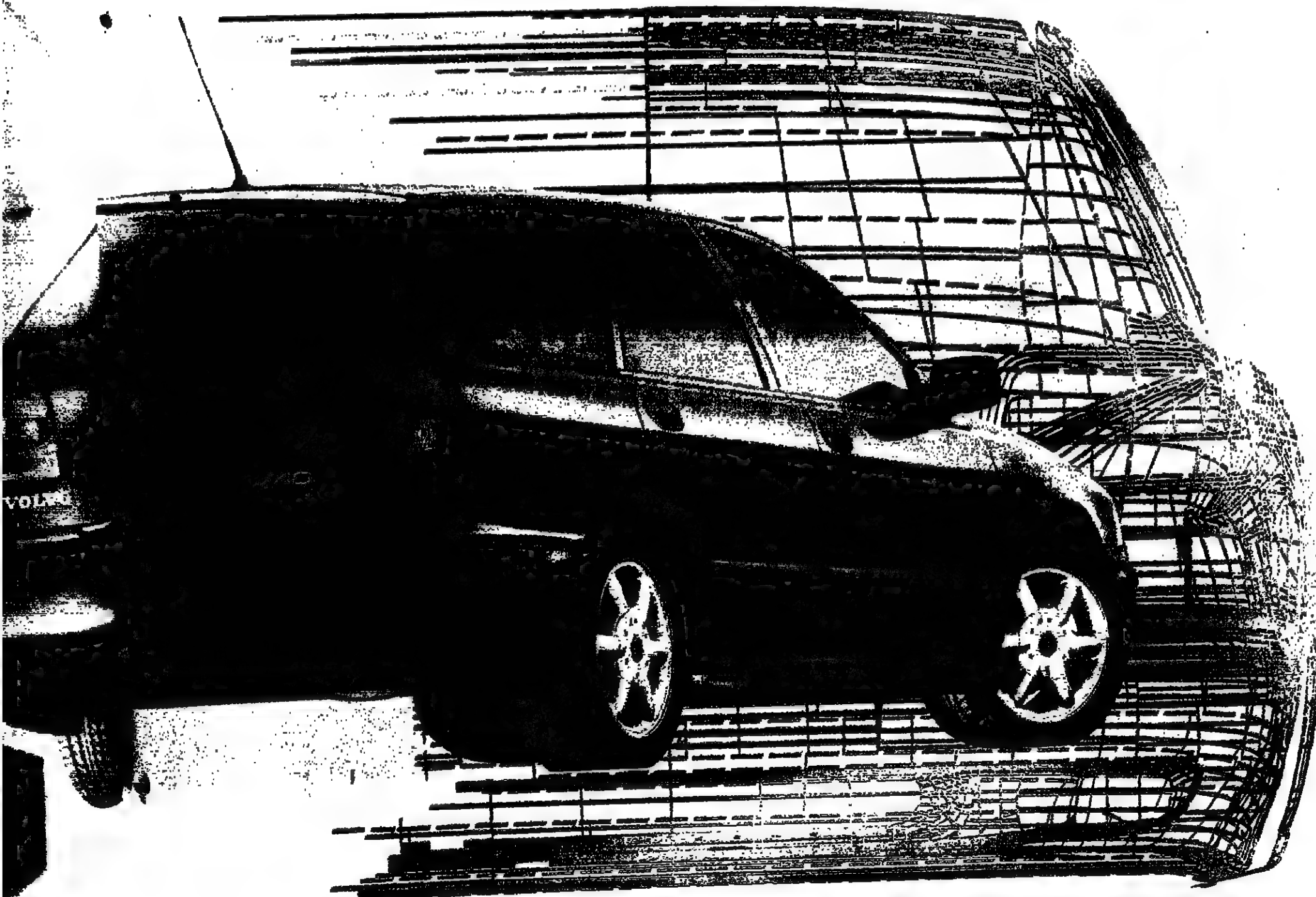
Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats would restore free eye and dental checks, financing this with the proceeds of putting 5p on the price of a packet of cigarettes. Closing loopholes in the National Insurance system would raise £350 million a year to recruit more staff and ensure that within three years, no patient would have to wait more than six months for treatment.

Teachers backing Lib Dem policies

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Other recent polls have shown that general voters place Labour 23 and 26 percentage points ahead on education, compared with 12 points ahead in 1992.

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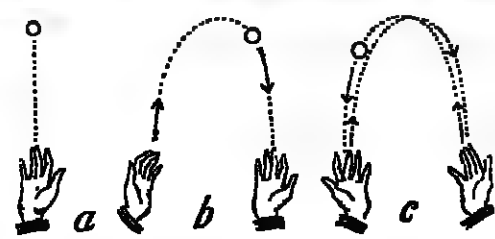


Fig. 6. The principles of Ball Juggling

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CONSERVATIVES



The Tories have no plans for significant legislative changes. They pledge to ensure that while genuine asylum seekers are treated sympathetically, people do not abuse their provisions to avoid normal immigration regulation. They will veto any attempts to relax border controls and have made employers responsible for ensuring that their workers are legally entitled to residence. Recent controls on war widows have been relaxed at the margins but attempts by some Tories to broaden the number of Hong Kong residents able to settle in Britain have been resisted. The Tories are proud of introducing legislation to prevent racial harassment and impose aggravated punishments for racially motivated attacks, but they have resisted pressure to subscribe to anti-racism initiatives from the European Union.

LABOUR



Labour is pledged to make immigration "fairer". It would abolish the primary purpose rule and thus make it easier for spouses to acquire citizenship without having to prove that their marriage is sincere. Labour is also likely to reform the Asylum and Immigration Act. Although the Shadow Home Affairs Minister, Alan Michael, admitted in 1995 that "there is a need to deal with those who are not entitled to asylum" Labour feels that the Act went too far. In particular, it argues that the "white list" of countries, from which no claims might be entertained, is racist. Labour would prefer to streamline the whole system, by tackling inefficiencies in the Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Division. Labour would also restore benefits to those asylum seekers who fail to notify the authorities of their claim on entry.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



The Liberal Democrats are the least equivocal of Britain's parties in welcoming immigration. It was Paddy Ashdown who led the campaign to extend the number of full British passports available to Hong Kong residents and the Lib Dems who took the most vigorous stance in opposition to the Asylum and Immigration Act. They would repeal it, and believe that asylum policy should be based on United Nations principles. They argue that justice, not numbers, is the issue. More broadly, they believe that immigration policy needs to be overhauled and given coherence with an assessment of labour market requirements and sensitivity to individual rights as well as family needs. The Lib Dems also want Britain to opt in to the Schengen agreement and make it EU law, turning Europe into a "frontier-free" zone.

BALLOT '97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

17: Immigration and race

United in extreme caution

Race can be an incendiary issue in British politics. Enoch Powell's declaration in 1968 that he foresaw "the River Tiber foaming with much blood", were immigration not reduced, earned the Wolverhampton MP the sack from Edward Heath's Shadow Cabinet but the Tories gained at the polls. No mainstream politician since has been as explicit in appropriating racial feeling but some have nodded at popular fears. In 1978, Margaret Thatcher alluded to concerns about British culture being "swamped" and, as Home Secretary, in 1992, Kenneth Baker gave warning against a relaxation of immigration controls. The then director of Conservative Central Office's research department, Andrew Lansley, now a Tory candidate, has argued: "Immigration, an issue which we raised successfully at the 1992 general election and again during the 1994 European elections played particularly well in the tabloids and has more potential to hurt."

John Major, however, has prided himself on his "inclusiveness". As a Lambeth councillor he criticised Mr Powell, and as Prime Minister he has said that the characteristic he most dislikes is prejudice. He has won praise, even from political opponents, for his anti-racist credentials. But others in his party adopt a different emphasis.

In this campaign, Conservative candidates in the West Midlands are seeking to make immigration an issue by drawing attention to Labour plans for reform. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has also argued for the maintenance of strict immigration controls.

The direct electoral effect of their stance is hard to calculate. It may be that voters are reluctant to share their fears with strangers but the polling evidence suggests that racial feeling is becoming less intense in Britain.

The Tories maintain that the slow evaporation of prejudice is a consequence of tight controls, and that only the



No mainstream politician has echoed Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech

assurance that there will be no pronounced increase in the number of new citizens from abroad can ensure the development of greater tolerance.

Both the main Opposition parties accept that immigration has to be controlled if racial tension is not to be inflamed but both feel the Tories have gone too far. In particular, Labour and the Liberal Democrats had qualms about asylum legislation which they fear has tarnished Britain's reputation as a lifeboat for the persecuted.

The Conservatives have a steady record of ever-tighter regulation. In 1980 they tightened immigration rules by introducing the primary purpose rule, which allows the authorities to deny a spouse entry to this country if the main justification for marriage is thought to be the wish to settle here. In 1981 the British Nationality Act put citizenship on a new basis, with a definition covering only those with close family ties to the UK.

The numbers entering Britain throughout the Eighties

remained relatively steady, gently declining from a total of 55,360 in 1985 to 49,650 in 1989. Immigration began to rise again in 1990 and the largest recorded area of increase was in the number of refugees. In 1995 the number of legally accepted immigrants was back up to 55,480.

The laws designed to deal with one of the reasons for that increase, the 1993 and 1996 Asylum Acts, have proved controversial. Britain has a proud tradition of offering a haven for those fleeing dictatorial regimes. There was mounting evidence in the early 1990s, however, that a growing number of immigrants who would not otherwise have qualified for entry in Britain were fraudulently claiming asylum.

The number of asylum applicants in the early nineties was swollen, initially, by the unstable, in some places violent, aftermath of the fall of communism, and the introduction of more restrictive legislation on the Continent. At

the beginning of 1994, Britain received 2,500 asylum applications a month; by November 1995, the figure was 4,700. Since the introduction of the 1996 Act the numbers attempting to enter have fallen. In January 1997 there were 2,275 applications for asylum, a 32 per cent fall from January 1996. A variety of factors, including the end of the war in Bosnia and more stability in parts of Africa, may have influenced the figures but the scale of the drop suggests the legislation has had an effect in deterring bogus applications.

The Liberal Democrats are formally pledged to repealing the 1996 Act and Labour has hinted broadly that it would do the same. Labour is also formally committed to abolishing the primary purpose rule. It would be incumbent on the Government to determine that a marriage was contracted for immigration purposes rather than placing the burden of proof on the citizen.

This change has been held to have significant symbolic influence. Timothy Kirkhope, a

Home Office Minister accused Labour of bidding for the ethnic minority vote. Whatever the intention, the signal has been warmly received, particularly among Asians. According to February's MORI poll some 70 per cent of British Asian voters were planning to back Labour, compared with 55 per cent of the public as a whole.

The repeal of asylum legislation would almost certainly see the numbers of new citizens rise again, possibly by several thousand a year. The precise consequences of abolition of the primary purpose rule are impossible to chart. A drop in the number of illegal immigrants would inevitably be outweighed by the growth in legal immigration.

Immigration aside, there is a broad consensus among the parties on race relations. All support the work of the Commission for Racial Equality and there was cross-party backing for the Government's introduction of new legislation on racial harassment.

The parties' efforts have not been yet succeeded in building the country at ease with itself they all aspire to. Many within the ethnic minorities feel excluded from British society. Only 40 per cent of blacks are certain to vote, compared with 60 per cent of the total population. Perceptions of prejudice play a part. Young black males are twice as likely to be unemployed as their white contemporaries and although there are a growing number of Asian millionaires and black role models penetration of the professions is still poor. Only 1.5 per cent of magistrates, 2 per cent of prison officers and 4 per cent of solicitors are Black or Asian, yet 5.5 per cent of the population are from those communities.

Whatever prejudice may still exist, there is, however, no significant racist organisation comparable to France's National Front or Austria's Freedom Party. Prejudices remain and individuals strike attitudes but no party now wants to drink at Powell's poisoned well.

WHAT THEY SAID

We have excellent race relations in this country. We are immensely proud of them. Firm, but fair, immigration policies are an essential element in maintaining that harmony.

Michael Howard, Nov 1995

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that where there is a racial element in an offence of violence, that is a gravely aggravating feature.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth, as Lord Chief Justice, Nov 1994

In office we shall remove the deep injustices contained within the system of immigration control, establish effective rights of appeal, and intolerable delays which split families and cause them untold anguish and despair, and end the arbitrary primary purpose rule.

Jack Straw, Oct 1995

I find it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not lawfully be removed from this country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness, even death.

Mr Justice Collins, Oct 1995

Although the number of asylum seekers coming to the UK has decreased, the number in detention has increased. We think detention is being used to deter people from coming to the UK to seek asylum.

Nick Hardwick, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, Jan 1997

THE FACTS

□ A MORI poll in February found that 31 per cent of Britons thought immigration controls too strict, 18 per cent not strict enough and 43 per cent about right.

□ In 1994 about 10,000 people were apprehended working illegally in the UK.

□ There are 2,319 police officers from ethnic minorities in England and Wales, 1.08 per cent of the total.

□ Monthly asylum applications have fallen from 4,594 in October 1995 to 1,985 in February this year.

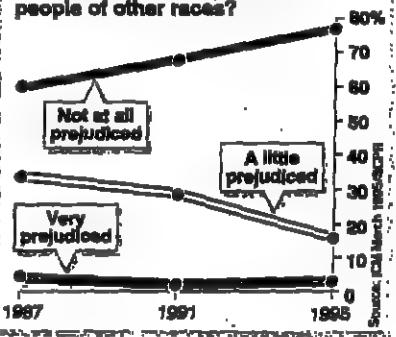
□ In the first two months of this year the greatest numbers of refugees admitted came from the former Yugoslavia (373), Iran (60), Iraq (25), the Sudan (15), Turkey (15) and Algeria (10).

□ During the first six months of 1996, 6 per cent of applicants were granted refugee status.

□ According to census figures, 3.5 million British citizens are from non-white ethnic minorities, 5.5 per cent of the total.

□ In 1995 12,680 husbands and 19,940 wives of British citizens were allowed to settle legally in Britain.

How prejudiced are you against people of other races?



FRANCE

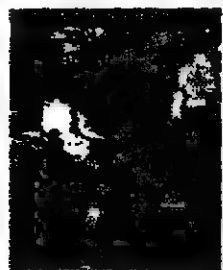
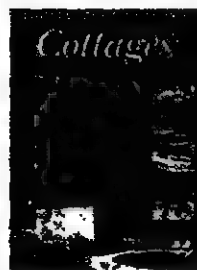


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John Major

once wanted to be a
bus conductor.

He didn't make it. So what's he doing with a busman's pension?



When the National Bus Company was privatised, the Government plundered the pension fund. Each pensioner is losing around £1,000 a year. The Ombudsman has told the Government to give back the

money. But it won't.

If you think this is unfair, write to John Major or your local parliamentary candidate, asking why the pensioners aren't getting their money.

Give the B.E.S.T pensioners their money back. It's the honest thing to do, John.

The B.E.S.T (Bus Employees Superannuation Trust) Action Group is supported by the Transport & General Workers Union. For further information or a campaign pack, contact the T&G on 0800 37 44 61.

T&G

Loan from Dole pays \$300,000 Gingrich fine

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE stunned Washington yesterday by lending Newt Gingrich the money he needed to pay a congressional ethics fine of \$300,000 (£185,000).

Mr Dole, last year's Republican presidential candidate, said that he would bail the House Speaker out of his financial jam because "I consider this not only an opportunity to support a friend, but a long-term investment in the future of our party". The loan enraged some Democrats.

Under the agreement between Mr Dole and Mr Gingrich, the interest rate will be 10 per cent a year, simple interest, and no payments are due for eight years, by which time Mr Gingrich will be out of Congress under a self-imposed deadline and presumably earning a hefty salary in the private sector.

If Mr Gingrich pays nothing until the due date, 2005, the total repayment would be about \$640,000, his lawyer said. Mr Gingrich had explored other ways to pay, using campaign coffers or by forming a legal defence fund. Republicans warned him he would face a revolt and lose his grip on the Speakership if he did not pay out of his own pocket. The Speaker told the

House he realised he had a "moral obligation" to pay from personal funds. "Any other step would simply be seen as one more politician shirking his duty," he said.

Applauding the decision, Mr Dole said Mr Gingrich had yet again shown himself to be a man of integrity. Mr Gingrich described Mr Dole as a "close personal friend of impeccable integrity".

They were not always so close. During a dispute over benefits, Mr Gingrich denounced Mr Dole as a "tax collector for the welfare state". Mr Dole has said privately that his White House cam-



Gingrich: wife not keen to use family money

paign was doomed by Mr Gingrich's insistence on shutting down the Government during a budget battle with President Clinton.

Mr Dole can afford his generosity. He earns more than \$600,000 from his new position in a Washington law firm. He made \$500,000 from a television commercial for Visa shown during the Super Bowl. He has several pensions and, with his wife Elizabeth, has assets of more than \$4 million. Mr Gingrich is less well off. His salary as Speaker is \$171,500. His home in Georgia, plus a money-market account containing up to \$250,000 and a bank account of between \$50,000 and \$100,000, are in his wife's name. She had been strongly against using family funds to pay.

The penalty against Mr Gingrich, who insists it was not a fine, was assessed by the House Ethics Committee to cover the costs of his inquiry that concluded he broke House rules by using tax-exempt foundations for political projects and gave incorrect information to the committee. Mr Gingrich blamed his lawyers for the inaccuracies and said that he might sue.



Former Presidents George Bush, left, Gerald Ford, centre, and Jimmy Carter pose for an official portrait for the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with former First Ladies, from the left, Lady Bird Johnson, Barbara Bush, Betty Ford and Rosalyn Carter

Manhattan misery at strike threat by do-it-all doormen

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MANHATTAN'S most prized employees, the peak-capped, apartment-block doormen, are threatening to go on strike this weekend, creating despair and self-loathing throughout the city.

The 30,000 members of Local 32B-32J of Service Employees International, the trade union which represents New York City's doormen, janitors, elevator operators and maintenance men, will walk out on Sunday night unless there is an unexpected change of heart from the cartel of skyscraper landlords. They want more money.

For New Yorkers, the absence of doormen — the unacknowledged kings of this bustling city — is the gloomiest of prospects. The doormen, who with their heavy Christmas tips normally clear a good \$40,000 a year, fulfil numerous duties.

In rain they summon taxis and, in sunshine they carry parasols to shield elderly residents. They announce guests, apprehend illegal entrants, take shopping deliveries and, crucially, act as conduits of gossip. In older apartment blocks, they supervise the hand-operation of elegant, creaking lifts. In most places they double as babysitters, nursesmaids, family friends, dog-walkers, dog-poopers, confidants, stock-market tipsters, translators, laundry boys and Broad-

way ticket agents. In short, they run the town.

The union, which controls 3,000 of the smartest residence blocks in the city, last went on strike in 1991. Flat owners had to put their own rubbish in the street, man the front desk on a rota, deal with deliveries and maintenance problems, and mount security operations. The grumbles were endless, and when the doormen returned to work after two weeks many were smothered in kisses.

"Life is going to be intolerable next week," complained Tatiana Yassukovich, an actress who lives in a fashionable doorman-run apartment block in the downtown area. "We'll have to put our own trash outside — but I'm an actress, for goodness sake," she said yesterday. "I can't afford to have people seeing me like that! I'm also worried about the flowers that people send to me. They will arrive in the lobby downstairs and will simply fester. God!"

The doorman's union is controlled by Gus Bevona, a high-profile leader who has run tightly disciplined union meetings, complete with bouncers to evict dissenters, at venues such as the Hilton and Sheraton hotels. Mr Bevona said an impasse had been reached with the Realty Advisory Board, which represents the landlords, and made clear his readiness for action.

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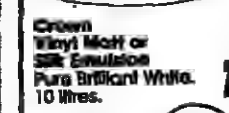
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'This Government will stay where the people and history have put us'

Netanyahu defies call to quit after police indictment

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S beleaguered Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, last night launched a spirited fightback against attempts to force him out of office after police recommendations that he be charged with fraud and breach of public trust.

As senior law officers met at a secret location to make a decision, due next week, about whether to press charges against Mr Netanyahu and three political allies, Israel's youngest Prime Minister said he was determined to resist attempts to remove him.

In political drama as fraught as any seen in Israel's 49-year history, Mr Netanyahu was addressing cheering right-wing supporters hours after an emergency meeting of the main opposition Labour Party called for his "immediate resignation", claiming that he no longer had any "moral basis" for remaining in power.

Moshe Shalev, former Labour Internal Security Minister, said at the heated meeting in Tel Aviv: "There are many similarities between this affair and that of President Richard Nixon. The Prime Minister cannot avoid the implications of the police recommendations. He must resign from office."

In his first public comments

Chaim Herzog, the Belfast-born President of Israel for a decade until 1993, died yesterday, aged 78, after a long illness. He fought for the Jewish state on the battlefield, chronicled its history and championed its cause at the United Nations. A state funeral is to be held. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 23

on what Israeli papers described as the "political bombshell" delivered in the 995-page police report, Mr Netanyahu told members of his ruling Likud Party: "This Government is not going anywhere. We are staying where the people and history have put us."

As his supporters used his



Bar-On: resigned after only hours in office

nickname, chanting "Bibi, King of Israel" and giving him a standing ovation. Mr Netanyahu told them: "I have come to tell you today that we will continue to lead the state of Israel. We will continue on this path until the year 2000 and, I tell you, beyond the year 2000." He added: "I am convinced that the truth will triumph."

The scandal, which has completely overshadowed new attempts by Dennis Ross, the American special envoy, to revive the collapsing Middle East peace process, arose over the short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On, a little-known, Likud-supporting lawyer, as Attorney-General.

Ayala Hasson, Israel Television's crime reporter, alleged in January that the appointment, which lasted only 12 hours, was part of a political conspiracy in which Arieh Deri, the Orthodox religious leader, offered Cabinet support for Israel's troop pullout from 90 per cent of Hebron. She reported that his price was a corrupt pledge that Mr Bar-On would whittle down charges in a separate corruption case Mr Deri was facing which threatens his political career.

Earlier Danny Naveh, the Cabinet Secretary, said that he did not believe that the state prosecutor would implement the police recommendation



Mr Netanyahu controls his anger as he addresses Likud Party members in Tel Aviv last night. "We will continue to lead Israel until and beyond the year 2000," he said

that Mr Netanyahu be charged. He admitted that, if charges were pressed, they could result in Mr Netanyahu's "dismissal", but claimed that the police recommendation was not well enough founded.

Mr Naveh said in his hard-hitting appeal to the public: "And I want to ask, do you present an indictment against the Prime Minister of Israel, something that could in effect bring about the dismissal of

the Prime Minister, pervert the wishes of the voters of only a year ago, change the course of history of the state of Israel on a basis like this? My answer to this question is negative."

Analysts said that the unexpected news of the police recommendations had dealt a crippling, but not necessarily fatal, blow to Mr Netanyahu's premiership. Yehoshua Matza, a Cabinet minister close to him, admitted that, if

the prosecutor did press charges, "perhaps it will be to go back to elections."

Under Israel's new electoral law, there is no explicit requirement that the Prime Minister step down if he is indicted or even convicted. But political observers believe that, if that happens, vital smaller parties backing his coalition would withdraw their support.

Leading article, page 21

Scandal casts shadow across path of confident leader

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ON THE EVE of its fiftieth anniversary, Israel was yesterday plunged into an unprecedented political and constitutional crisis that, whatever its outcome, could seriously destabilise Benjamin Netanyahu, the first directly elected Prime Minister.

While his shell-shocked aides struggled to overcome the worst political corruption scandal to beset an Israeli leader, there was a growing realisation that his ten-month-old administration is likely to emerge a shadow of its previous confident self. "While opposition calls for Benjamin

ANALYSIS

Netanyahu to step down immediately are premature, the police recommendation that he be indicted on charges of fraud and breach of trust is likely to deal a fatal blow to Netanyahu's chances of serving out his four-year term as Prime Minister," claimed the right-wing *Jerusalem Post*, until last year a paper edited by one of his senior policy advisers, David Bar-Ilan.

Mr Netanyahu's spin doctors, having held a late-night council of war, decided that attack was the best

form of defence. Publicly, calls for resignation, new elections or even a three-month period of "leave" were dismissed out of hand. But few Israelis were convinced that his right-wing coalition with a majority of 66 in the 120-seat Knesset could escape unscathed.

Hemi Shalev, the *Maariv* columnist, wrote: "From a political aspect, time will stand still until it is clear whether there is still a Government in Israel or if the police recommendation, with or without prosecution, is discovered to be a shoe which has turned Netanyahu and his ministers into lame ducks who do not recover

from their wounds." Aside from the knee-jerk reactions from a left-wing Opposition that is still smarting from its narrow defeat by 30,000 votes at last May's election, there were wiser counsels arguing that bringing forward elections from 2000 might be one way of healing political wounds that are so deep that no other immediate cure is available.

Although Mr Netanyahu is a political bruiser who is capable of holding his corner, his problem — whatever the final decision reached by Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, and Edna Arbel, state attorney — is that no other Prime

Minister in the state's 49-year history has had to face such damaging accusations from his own police force. "Because a professional investigating team reached this recommendation [that he be criminally charged], the Prime Minister will not be able to clear himself other than in a trial or a trial of the people," argued Yaakov Erez, a journalist.

Even then, he must remember that, as long as he was not proven guilty, Benjamin Netanyahu is innocent. In the final count, Israeli citizens will have to determine, and determinations in a democratic society are made with elections."

Mandela asks Zaire leader to peace talks

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

PRESIDENT Mandela of South Africa yesterday invited Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko to talks with Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, raising hopes that a final battle for Kinshasa could be avoided after face-to-face negotiations. The invitation fuelled speculation that Mr Mobutu, 66, who has been under domestic and international pressure to step down, might not return to Zaire if he left the country to meet with Mr Kabila, the guerrilla leader who has taken more than half of Zaire in a six-month campaign.

"I have been speaking both to President Kabila and to President Mobutu, and as a result of the exchanges I have had with them, and other leaders in Africa, I am confident that a peaceful solution will be achieved," Mr Mandela said in Cape Town.

The breakthrough came after a series of discussions with Mr Kabila in the Cape on Wednesday at which, diplomatic sources said, he was persuaded to agree to meet Mr Mobutu unconditionally.

The bush fighter whose rebellion began in November had insisted that the only issue to discuss with Mr Mobutu would be his departure, and that if he did not agree to leave peacefully he would be forced out. Yesterday it appeared that Mr Kabila had agreed to soften his approach.

In describing Mr Kabila as a "President", Mr Mandela risked irritating Mr Mobutu and his followers but explicitly recognised that the leaders of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire was a major force in the country.

Mr Mobutu's son and spokesman, Nzanga, said yesterday that he expected his father to accept the South African leader's invitation. "There's no problem. The President has already agreed to meet Kabila. Now the timing and where the meeting should be remain to be discussed," he said.

But he rejected suggestions Mr Mobutu could use the talks as a pretext for leaving Zaire and going into honourable exile. "The consequence would be turmoil. We cannot leave a vacuum at the top of

the country. It would lead to huge problems," Mr Mobutu's son said.

Other members of the President's entourage did not agree and said yesterday that, as Mr Mobutu was suffering from prostate cancer and needed expert medical treatment, he "should take the chance to leave Zaire with his head held high and allow a peaceful transition".

This has been the focus of Western diplomatic efforts over the last few weeks. A State Department spokesman in Washington recently went public with the US desire to see Mr Mobutu step down.

Mohammed Sahnoun, the United Nations special envoy to Central Africa who helped to broker the agreement to set up a summit of Zaire's two big men, hinted yesterday that a formula was being found

Berne: The Swiss Government rejected pleas from politicians and Zairean rebels to freeze billions of dollars which may have been deposited in the country by President Mobutu. The Federal Council said Mr Mobutu was still head of state and the legitimate Government had not requested action. (Reuters)

which could lever Mr Mobutu out of office.

The outcome we have today is the agreement in principle by the two parties to meet at the highest level ... to discuss transitional arrangements," said the envoy.

Possible venues for a meeting between Mr Mobutu and Mr Kabila include neighbouring Congo and Togo as well as South Africa. Mr Kabila is unlikely to agree to visit the two former French colonies because of his deep distrust of Paris, which has backed Mr Mobutu throughout his 32-year rule.

As the rebels close in on Kinshasa, its citizens yesterday breathed a collective sigh of relief at the first sign that it may not have to face anarchy, looting and bloodshed which, it feared, would be unleashed by Mr Mobutu in the last act of his dramatic life.

Rebel port inspected by Italian soldiers

FROM TOM WALKER
IN VLORE

AN ADVANCE party of Italian combat troops inspected rebel-held Vlore yesterday, in preparation for a joint Italian-Greek operation to secure the southern Albanian port, still the hotbed of rebellion against President Berisha.

The unit, comprising many of the same soldiers that accompanied Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to Vlore last Sunday, guarded two Italian colonels as they visited leaders of the town's self-styled rebel government, the Committee for Public Salvation. One of the colonels said it was still uncertain when the first large detachments of Operation Alba troops would arrive, but at least one Italian brigade and one Greek company would lead the mission.

Egemen Osmani, the commander of the salvation committee's defence wing, said the Italians had been welcomed. He said the sinking of the refugee ship from Vlore after it collided with an Italian naval vessel would not be used as an excuse for guerrilla activities against Operation Alba.

A guard outside the school building occupied by the committee said, however, that he would "skin alive" any Italian soldier who tried to take his weapon. "They'd be better off sending Japanese soldiers here," he said. "The Italians have robbed us for centuries."

He said that between them, Belgrade, Athens and Rome formed an anti-Albanian triangle bent on profiting from the country. Sazon Malaj, a teacher, said that with tension still high in Vlore, it was an opportune moment for Mr Berisha to orchestrate a battle between Italian troops and local gangs. "This is his favourite method", he said.

□ **Lashaj:** Up to 40 gunmen burst into a hospital operating room in this southern Albanian town and started firing as they grieved over the death of a friend, who had been shot by accident. Nobody was hurt in the incident, which lasted about 30 minutes. (Reuters)

Royal wanderer pledges to build a united Albania

BY TOM WALKER



Leka Zog: doubts about international mission

HE HAS a shock of white hair and an Australian wife, is 6ft 5in and speaks with a clipped South African tone. Yet this most un-Albanian of Albanians says that he has returned to unite them under the constitutional monarchy of King Leka Zog I.

In April, 1939, Leka Zog was just two days old when his family fled Albania and Mussolini's invasion. When he came back on Saturday, for only the second time in his 58 years, he found his country in the throes of another foreign intervention, albeit with better intentions.

"I stand for an ethnic Albania," he said in the small Tirana villa that doubles as the royalists' campaign headquarters. "As long as Albania is not united there will be big problems in the Balkans. The last thing I would like to see is war. A Balkan war would be disastrous for the world."

His has been a strange odyssey amid a peculiar royal family. His father, King Zog, was a former rural chieftain who proclaimed himself monarch in 1928, and maintained his brief rule with heavy financial support from the nation that overthrew him.

His son has since wandered the globe awaiting his moment. The family fled Mussolini to Greece, and then moved to the Ritz in London from there they went to Egypt, and to Cannes and Paris.

where King Zog died in 1961. Leka remained in France before moving to Spain in the 1970s, then to South Africa.

A monarchy of 11 years' standing that few now remember seems a flimsy base on which to claim a place in the heart of today's Albanians. But Leka Zog says his father was the founder of the nation, and that he has come to complete his vision.

Unfortunately, a modern European Albania under Leka Zog would also take in large chunks of neighbouring Serbia and Macedonia, and the international community is likely to distance itself from his cause. A referendum that has cross-party support should be held some time this summer to decide if Albanians want him back as king.

Ironically, his royalist movement which manifests itself through the small Legality Party, could be taken on board by the opposition Socialists in their attempt to oust President Berisha and his Democratic Party in June's general election. That would put Leka Zog in the unique position of being backed by former Communists who despised his father.

Chain-smoking with disdain, he expressed his opinions in a brusque, military manner. "As long as they are here for humanitarian aid, then they are welcome," he said of the 6,000 international troops being mustered in Albania. "But it is up to us as Albanians to sort our affairs out. Their mandate had already grown to six months from three and that gives me cause for concern."

He wants the June elections monitored, but by a non-political body such as the Red Cross. Even if his referendum is unsuccessful, he will return as an Albanian citizen, bringing his family — including his wife, Susan, their son, Leka 14, and Queen Geraldine, elderly widow of King Zog. Leka Zog's immediate travel plans include a trip to the family homeland of Shkodra in the north, and to rebel-held Vlore in the south. Both should provide clues about whether the Zog dynasty has any chance of resuming.

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Yeltsin and Kohl fail to end impasse over Nato

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY and Russia failed yesterday to make the decisive breakthrough needed to gain Moscow's acceptance for the eastward enlargement of Nato.

Although President Yeltsin expressed certainty that the alliance and Russia would be able to sign a security charter next month easing Moscow's concerns, it was clear that major differences still remain only five weeks before the scheduled summit in Paris.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the Russian leader started the day-long summit in Baden-Baden in sunny mood, but by the evening it was plain that Mr Yeltsin was digging in his heels. Many of the President's comments at the final press conference seemed to be aimed at his home audience and served only to confuse the Chancellor.

On Nato, the sticking points seemed to be about how large a role Russia is to be given in alliance decision-making. President Yeltsin said that he had won the Chancellor's support for "a binding commitment to consultation, and decisions on a consensus basis with all states including Russia". Herr Kohl did not comment directly but officials emphasised that Mr Yeltsin's statement should not be taken to mean that Bonn supported a Russian veto in alliance affairs.

What appears to have been agreed during lengthy talks between Javier Solana, the

Nato Secretary-General, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, is that a Nato-Russian consultative council will keep the Kremlin informed of alliance activities. The Germans may be ready to consider Russia's demand for a rotating chairmanship of that council, but that is as far as concessions have gone.

Herr Kohl said yesterday that the security charter with Russia was "90 per cent" complete but that intense talks were now needed on the outstanding differences. Mr Yeltsin, repeatedly describing Herr Kohl as his close friend, gave a different spin to the Baden-Baden talks. He referred to the security charter as a "treaty", although there is no agreement to make the document legally binding, and said it was certain to be signed on May 27 in Paris.

President Yeltsin also claimed that Herr Kohl's support on areas which were plainly not agreed and indicated that there would be no speedy deal on the other main source of controversy, the return of art treasures taken from Germany after the war. "I am sure that such a politician as Helmut Kohl will do his utmost to secure an objective position towards Russia," said Mr Yeltsin. However, the Chancellor, without openly disagreeing, emphasised that Germany would not be thrust into the role of "interpreter" of Russian demands.

The edginess of the meeting



Helmut Kohl helps Boris Yeltsin as they leave the podium in Baden-Baden yesterday after listening to their national anthems. The two leaders discussed the expansion of Nato and the return of looted artworks

was underlined by the gifts brought by Mr Yeltsin. It files from the Moscow archives containing the letters of Walter Rathenau, the former German Foreign Minister. Since it was Rathenau who prepared the way for the Treaty of Rapallo between Russia and Germany in 1922, the present was double-edged. The treaty is still regarded with deep suspicion by Central Europeans who see it as the first move in a modern Russo-German

friendship aimed at carving up the Continent. Herr Kohl will be spending the next week reassuring Central European candidates for Nato that a deal will not be struck with Moscow over their heads. The German leader sees President Kwasniewski of Poland today, and President Havel of the Czech Republic will visit Germany next week.

The German chairman of the Nato military committee, General Klaus Naumann, em-

phasised in an interview in the German press yesterday that Nato had made as many concessions as it could during the long negotiations with the Kremlin, including a commitment that Nato would not station nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

General Naumann said Nato was concerned about the large numbers of tactical nuclear weapons, many of them situated near Russia's western frontiers. The failure

to solve the deeply emotional issue of stolen art was probably the most galling outcome of yesterday's summit for the Germans. On the fringes of the summit, officials suggested that the two countries might be ready to set up a foundation that would supervise international shows of the art treasures. The two leaders notably failed to mention this possibility and the argument is still simmering between the two countries.

Police call for ban on Le Pen's private militia

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE French Government has launched an inquiry into the existence of a highly trained extreme-right militia, thought to be 7,000-strong, which answers with unwavering loyalty to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the National Front.

There have been complaints that the militia's uniforms so closely resemble the CRS, the official French riot police, that they have been able to pass for them.

The Department of Protection-Security (DPS), the security arm of the far-right party, is said to be equipped with teargas, helmets, riot shields and truncheons and is believed to possess guns.

"The existence of a political militia laying down the law is unacceptable," said Jean-Louis Arajol, the head of the CUP-SGP police union. "In a republic there is only one police force."

M Le Pen has responded angrily to the possibility that his crack troops might be disbanded. In such an eventuality, it will be up to each individual "to ensure his own legitimate self-defence", he said. "The responsibility, of course, will rest exclusively with the Minister of the Interior," he added.

Concern over the existence of the militia group came to a head after protesters were stopped and searched by members posing as policemen during demonstrations against the National Front at the party's national congress in Strasbourg last month.

On October 26 last year, militia members wielding truncheons charged a crowd of protesters during a National Front rally outside the town hall of Montceau-les-Mines in eastern France. Didier Mathus, the Socialist

Deputy Mayor, angrily demanded how "a militia equipped with teargas could spread out within sight and sound of the authorities".

M Arajol, who wants M Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, to dissolve the group, believes that the militia is highly disciplined and has received advanced training. He points to videos of the battle with anti-Front demonstrators at Montceau-les-Mines. "By the way they act it is clear that they have had riot control training," he said.

Created in 1986, the group is organised with military precision by its commander, Bernard Courcelle, a former paratrooper. Nor is there any shortage of recruits for M Le Pen's elite private army. Many of its members are drawn from the former ranks of the OAS, a shadowy extreme-right paramilitary force which fought to keep Algeria French. The reality of the DPS is at odds with the image that the National Front likes to present.

M Debré is expected to announce the fate of the DPS within two weeks.



Le Pen: has responded angrily to crackdown

Computer firm to fight Bavarian charges of Internet pornography

BY ROGER BOYES

A CYBERSPACE war has erupted in Germany as the result of a Bavarian decision to prosecute the head of the German division of CompuServe on pornography charges. The company yesterday contested the charges against Felix Somn, its managing director, and said it was doing all it could to prevent access to offensive material on the Internet.

The Bavarian indictment represents an important test case in the knotty question of policing the Internet: it marks the first attempts by Western authorities to prosecute a commercial online service for material it did not produce. The Munich prosecutors' office

said Herr Somn "knowingly allowed images of child pornography, violent sex and sex with animals from news groups from the so-called Internet to be made accessible to customers of CompuServe Germany". The prosecutors said CompuServe subscribers were also given access to computer games that contained forbidden images of Hitler and Nazi symbols such as the swastika.

The Bavarian prosecutors first raided the Munich offices of CompuServe in December 1995. CompuServe blocked access to more than 200 sex-related sites, or "news groups", to fend off accusations that it was distributing

pornography. In order to do so, however, it had to block global access to these sites, in effect imposing Bavarian standards on all its four million subscribers.

There is no technical way to shape Internet content, most of it held in Ohio computers, for the German market. That unleashed a worldwide debate about censorship of cyberspace. At the heart of the dispute is the question of how, rather than whether, to regulate the medium.

Lawyers and politicians in many countries, including Germany, are debating laws which try to determine whether regulation should be at the point of delivery or of origin.

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CHANGING TIMES

'A damn bad business'

Jeremy Lee-Potter explains why he was driven to resign as chairman of the British Medical Association

If you went to hospital with a blood disorder and were told "Your consultant is Mr Lee-Potter", you would feel better at once. He is a doctor of the old school: tall, well-mannered, genial, reassuring. But Jeremy Lee-Potter is no longer consultant haematologist at Poole Hospital. He took early retirement from the profession in which three generations of Lee-Potters have laboured.

His three clever children have followed their mother, Lynda, the *Daily Mail* columnist, into the media: Emma is writing a novel, Charlie presents Radio 4's *PM* programme, and Adam is a reporter on *The Sun*. "I suppose they looked at me," Lee-Potter laughs, "and looked at Lynda, and thought, we'd rather go that way."

The Lee-Potters live in some splendour in Dorset. Forty years ago they met as students, when he was at Guy's and she was at the Guildhall School of Drama. "She was in *Dry Rot* with Brian Rix at the Whitehall Theatre. But I blighted her acting career, as an itinerant doctor," he says.

They started in basement rooms when Jeremy was a £350-a-year houseman. "In those days you knew you would live in penury for a while, but everything would come all right in the end."

Their charming Edwardian house is like a Palladian manor, with French doors giving on to a York stone terrace and six acres of garden with woodland, swimming pool and tennis court. It was built by a friend of Gertrude Jekyll, whose style is imprinted on the vista of lawns and yew hedges. Both daughters had their wedding receptions there.

By a crackling fire in the drawing-room — Lynda is in London, lunching (I discover later) with Esther Rantzen — we sit side by side. "I never sat opposite my patients," he tells me. "Like all doctors, he is a repository of riveting facts of life and death. He gave me an enthralling discourse on blood coagulation."

Lee-Potter was chairman of the British Medical Association council from 1990, when the NHS Act became law, until driven to resign in 1993 by colleagues who called him Mr Sober. Sir Humphrey Davy Rolleston's "Medicine is a noble profession but a damn bad business" provides Lee-Potter with the title — *A Damn Bad Business* — of his new book: a sorry saga of endless confrontations over the NHS reforms allegedly dreamt up by Kenneth Clarke or a Spanish beach.

Lee-Potter was different from his combative, tub-thumping predecessor John Marks, whose aggressive poster campaign "What do you call a man who won't listen to his doctor?" "Ken Clarke" had, Lee-Potter felt, got them nowhere. He would be a conciliator: "You can't call these

people rogues and then expect them to sit and talk to you."

He sat down with the "airily confident" Clarke (behind the cigar smoke and the bluff, classless bonhomie he detected "an intellectual snob") followed by the more cerebral, sober William Waldegrave, who declined the BMA's best claret as he was on his annual Lenten wagon. Lee-Potter took to the Whiggish, well-informed Waldegrave at once when he fired the question: "Who was the last Briton to win a Nobel prize for medicine?" (Sir James Black).

He found Waldegrave instinctively compatible, and a good listener. But despite their cordial relationship, Lee-Potter soon found Waldegrave and Virginia Bottomley as intransigent as their predecessors, with "a wanton disregard of the views and knowledge of the clinicians."

Everyone assumed Lee-Potter was a classic Tory: he looked the part, his wife wrote for a right-wing paper.

He thinks he was vetted to check out if he was "one of us". Newspapers said he had never voted for any other party. "In fact, all I said was that I had never voted Labour, which is a very different matter. I have never joined any party. If anything I'm a sort of liberal."

Having him in the BMA hot seat was "rather constraining" for his wife. "I'd say 'For heaven's sake don't write about Mrs Bottomley, it's difficult enough for me as it is.'"

He resigned in disillusion when he was voted out. "The sensible guys were on my side, but the rabble-rousers made my life murder. I just found it inimical."

If he had his time again, would he play it differently? "No. I still think I was right. But the reforms were a fait accompli. The Government ignored our advice and trampled on our professionalism."

Lee-Potter's family tree bristled with doctors: one great-uncle a naval surgeon, another physician to the Tsar. His grandfather, killed on his motorcycle at 38, was a popular GP in York, who would treat the poor for free. His father became chief of RAP medical services. As a boy, Jeremy spent hours peering through a microscope at the organisms swimming around in rainwater: he was destined to devote his life to the NHS.

Today he experiences the service only when Lynda's nonagenarian aunt, who lives in the little cottage next door, is visited by the family GP. Lee-Potter himself has never needed to see his doctor and doesn't know if it is a fund-raising practice or not: most people don't, until they need an operation. But he would never take out private medical insurance. "Bupa is really only for elective surgery, no good for any chronic condition. I don't think Margaret Thatcher ever understood that the private sector cannot be comprehensive."



"Trident costs £12 billion a year. With five or six billion, the health service would be transformed"

He commended the television fly-on-the-wall series *Surgeon*, "shot in a Manchester practice full of drug addicts and forlorn, sad people, who depend on bloody good doctors working their socks off. These chaps should be getting £80,000-£100,000. Who would go into medicine if everybody you were at school with gets more than you?"

With even his own alma mater, Guy's, under threat, Lee-Potter says the NHS is no longer a national service: your treatment depends on where you live. "What's happened in 18 years of Conservative rule is that because people in public service are not 'producers', they are taken for granted. The old system was hierarchical, controlled and planned — cumbersome, but still the best way to

achieve results. They have substituted a hit-or-miss market system."

"Funding," as Lee-Potter writes in medical jargon, is "the prime aetiology of the NHS's difficulties." But the NHS will always be confounded by keeping body and soul together when patient expectations are now so high. It costs £250,000 a year to maintain one baby in an intensive-care unit. Lee-Potter says simply: "Without this care they would die. The extremities of life do cost a lot."

"It's a popular view, the bottomless pit argument," he says. "But we spend half what the Germans, the Swiss, the French, spend. John Major said to me 'Sometimes GNP goes down'. But we've never spent a high enough proportion of GNP on health. Trident costs £12 billion a year. With five or

six billion, the health service would be transformed."

He believes the doctors' ethos would be less threatened under Labour: their document *A Fresh Start for Health* was "very much in tune with what the BMA would have produced."

"You can't have a market-led NHS with every transaction costing, you can't make doctors ration treatments, telling patients there's no money left. Take cataracts. When you're 80, you live through your eyes and ears, all you want is to be able to read and watch television. A cataract operation can transform your remaining years and it can be done in a day — why should you wait a year? People justifiably find this unacceptable."

● *A Damn Bad Business* will be published by Gollancz next Thursday, £16.99

Girls will be boys when it comes to PCs

Computer games are taking us over, says Bridget Harrison

It is said that female flatmates argue about two things — the phone bill and boyfriends. In my house this is not so. We are five girls and the only arguing we ever do is over computer games. They row about who gets to play next. I row with them about turning it off.

We used to spend delightful evenings together watching *EastEnders* and sipping wine around the kitchen table, discussing each other's career and love prospects. With the arrival of a new PC in the house, and a Sony PlayStation, those days have gone. Our house is now filled with the sound of blasting gunfire, screaming missiles and explosions. Every evening I arrive home to find a huddle of girls shrieking around the computer, frantically flicking cigarette ash into half-drunk cups of tea. They are captivated by the activities of a creature called Earthworm Jim, who charges around a gaudy world blasting at enemies. At weekends the PlayStation comes out. The girls' favourite game is *Tomb Raider*, in which the heroine is busy action girl Lara Croft.

Often a flatmate will disappear on a Friday night, muttering: "I'm off to raid some tombs," and not appear again until Sunday. Why are these intelligent, active young women obsessed with sitting in front of a TV screen blasting computerised monsters?

Darren Carter, senior product manager at Sony, whose PlayStation has sold 875,000 consoles since its UK launch in September 1995, says: "Originally, mainly boys played computer games, which were taken from the arcades. Now everyone's imagination has been captured, especially by new fantasy games that require strategy as well as fire power."

They may have a point. After being addicted to one of the market's first TV games — *bat and ball* — when I was nine, I have moaned endlessly at the sight of my boyfriend and his mates riveted to com-

puterised soccer and golf. Until they discovered the game *Resident Evil*. In it, another tough girl, Jill, enters a frightening mansion to uncover an evil secret scientific experiment. Jill must search from room to room for weapons and clues which help her to reach other parts of the house.

The game is unusually sociable. It enables a whole room full of people to get involved, shouting: "Get the bazooka from the library, run into the hall, shoot the zombies, then go outside and use the helmet key! — No, use the key first, check out what's in the garden then come back for the zombies with the magnifying glass..." I played the game for nine hours non-stop.

One of my flatmates has another explanation for her passion: "Once you have mastered the controls of a game — which is deeply satisfying in itself — you become invincible. It's the nearest you will get to being an all-powerful super hero."

My belief is that after years of being ignored by boyfriends and brothers who sat glued to the TV screen, thumbs frenetically punching controls, girls have finally decided that they might as well join in.

"Nothing is more satisfying than going into a room full of men and thrashing them at the street-fighting game *Tekken*," says another flatmate. "They find it very hard to take."

Last month, Nintendo launched the Nintendo 64, to rival Sony's PlayStation. The console is being marketed specifically at players like my flatmates, who are in their mid-twenties, for they have the spending power to fork out £249.99.

Sony, which has now dropped the price of its PlayStation to £129.99, also targets older players, which will provide role models for younger game enthusiasts. Says Darren Carter: "We have brought gaming out of schoolboys' bedrooms into the living room."

I only wish they hadn't invaded mine.

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Philip Howard



■ That bulldog: did nobody warn Mr Mandelson?

Those who adopt the bulldog as a campaigning symbol should have a long lead, strong arms and tooth-proof trousers. Animal symbolism may be a useful identification mark for an illiterate electorate, but political animal crackers are usually a gift to the cartoonists, and end up biting the hand that feeds them. This has happened with elephants (ponderous conservative pachyderms) and donkeys (dumb and lascivious jackasses) in the States, and it has already happened in this election with the red-eyed lion, the headless chickens and now the bulldog.

The image of the British bulldog has become two-faced since Kenneth Baker's vain and mischievous *Dangerous Dogs Act*. It was never entirely favourable. Ancient Britain was famous for the ferocity of its dogs. Those, however, were not bulldogs but a bad-tempered cross between wouffounds and lurchers. The bulldog was bred for bull-baiting, our bloody native version of the Roman arena. It was a bold, fierce breed, with a large bull-head, short muzzle, strong muscular body and short, smooth hair. And once the bulldog sank its teeth into the tethered bull (with padded horns) it never let go. Its teeth looked like a bulldog clip. The earliest manual of the sport declares that "the courage of bulldogs and game-cocks seems peculiar to England". This was one sport in which we were champions. Bulldogging in the rodeo was invented by a black cowboy named Bill Pickett. Just like a bulldog, Pickett would sink his teeth into the bull's nose while wrestling it to the ground.

However, it was the music hall that turned the bulldog into a symbol of British bloody-mindedness and refusal to give in. Arthur Reece's song *Sons of the Sea, All British Born* had the chorus "Boys of the bulldog breed". This had a tremendous vogue in Victorian and Edwardian England. And it coincided with a time of naval rivalry with Kaiser's Germany, France and the United States. The tune was catchy. The sentiments were xenophobic. So it acquired the same patriotic glow as the *Jingo* song and Nicholas Chauvin playing for France after Napoleon. But it was unfortunate that the first politician to adopt the bulldog as his symbol was Horatio Bottomley, the sleazebag merchant of his day. Bottomley founded and edited the populist rant-rag *John Bull*. And eventually not even his bulldog badge could save him from being locked up for seven years for fraud.

When humans compare each other to the lower animals, the comparison is seldom complimentary. Shakespeare is full of such animal imagery. Hardly a page turns in *King Lear* without a reference to disgusting animal characteristics. "The dog, the horse, the cow, the sheep, the hog, the lion, the bear, the wolf, the fox, the monkey, the pole-cat, the civet-cat, the pelican, the owl, the crow, the chough, the wren, the fly, the bumblebee, the rat, the mouse, the frog, the tadpole, the wall-newt and the worm have their sound-bites and symbolism. Especially the dog. Goneril's face is like a wolf, and she and Regan are dog-hearted. Oswald is a mongrel, and son and heir to a mongrel."

Similarly in tragedy. Hecuba is a dog with blazing eyes, a feminine version of the red-eyed posters of Tony Blair. Medea is a tiger. Creusa is a viper. Clytemnestra is a lioness. Women were considered closer to animals than men. Philip Howard Wallace, who started as a journalist as critic of song recitals for *The Times*, knew the dangers of animal symbolism. He went on to review opera and theatre for *Time and Tide*. Lady Rhonda (Margaret Haig Thomas) was the founder and editor of that magazine, and an early feminist. Her subs tried to keep the genders equally balanced. Philip wrote a notice saying that the diva had sung with the passion of a tigress robbed of her whelps. This was changed to the politically correct version, comparing her to "a tiger robbed of his whelps".

Animals and even insects are disabbling metaphors for humans. Dear Procrustes. My very good friend Jason seems to be itching all over these days. What can be the matter with him? Medea. "My dear, don't worry. He's probably got golden fleas. Tell him to keep away from the argonites." Mr Mandelson is going to regret that two-jawed bulldog.



"Depend upon it, Sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully." (Dr. Johnson)

Big issues are personal

My mother voted for the Natural Law Party at the last European elections. Of course we all said "Oh Mum, how could you?", but secretly I was rather proud of her.

She and my father live and vote in the Catalan Pyrenees, where she teaches English. Mum says she did not intend to vote for the Natural Law Party, but she read the pamphlets from the Spanish conservative parties and detected something in the tone she did not like. Then she read the leaflets from the various Catalanist parties of the Left and Centre. Although she loves Catalonia, she sensed something narrow and spiteful in the nationalism. "So I just found I voted for the Natural Law Party."

It would be as pointless to ask her what purpose this was intended to serve as to quiz her on her reasons for rejecting the various policies of the other parties, though my father's habit (and mine) would be to try. You can usually beat my mother in an argument, but she often turns out to be right in the end. She had acted on intuition. A difference between women and men is that women act on intuition, but that though both do, boys are brought up not to admit it.

It is said that in essentials we change little with age, but there has been a big change in my outlook. As a youth I was very sure that when faced by a human dispute and obliged to decide which side to support, one should examine the subject of the dispute, ask which side one agreed with, and join that side. But more and more I think one should assess not the dispute but the disputants. Ask where the good men are. Join them, whatever their argument. Never join bad men, even those with a good argument. Any other rule has always led me into difficulty.

To a white adolescent in Southern Rhodesia in the 1960s, the big question was whether or not there should be black majority rule. With all the cocksureness of youth, I held the opinion that there should not — disagreeing in this with my mother and father. If you believed that Southern Rhodesia should defy Britain and hold out against "one man, one vote", you supported the Rhodesian Front, led at first by Winston Field, then Ian Smith. Otherwise (depending on how liberal you were) you supported Garfield Todd, or Sir Edgar Whitehead and Sir Roy Welensky.

My mother said that Ian Smith was a bad man. I said this was not an argument: she should address the issues. She said you could just tell. I said that was

I agree with the Eurosceptics' arguments, but I shall stick with decent John Major

not an argument, either: would she please address the issues? She went to a meeting of pro-Smith whites to put the case for African education. When called to speak she stood up and, convinced by the justice of her case but too distressed to articulate it, burst into tears and sat down again. I realise that as a method of debate this approach has its limitations, but looking back on that era in Central Africa, and all the wasted, futile words and gestures which were to follow, my mother's contribution does not seem to have been entirely without point.

Anyway, she was right. Ian Smith was a bad man. The argument into which he and the white population who supported him were finally led — the argument for gradualism — was a good argument, but it was made by bad men for bad, selfish reasons. If as a youth I could have seen that, I should have dispensed with debate and immediately joined whichever side Mr Smith and his friends were not on — as I was later, after far too much rationalisation, to do.

Which brings me to Europe, and Tory splits. I agree with almost all the opinions of the Eurosceptics and disagree with most of the views of the pro-Europeans, but have decided to support the pro-Europeans. This is because I sense that many of the Eurosceptics are not good men.

Never mind the argument. Watch the individuals. Watch, especially, the new generation of Europe-haters: the '90s and '90s Europhobes. Ask yourself why good men — men such as Sir Peter Tapsell or Sir Roger Moore, men who were Eurosceptical before there seemed to be career opportunity in Euroscepticism — have never quite seemed to fit in with the new crowd. Watch the body language of the new lot. There is something sleazy, something furtive, about many of them. Watch them when they address an audience, and observe whether they are trying to lead, or playing to the gallery. Watch their eyes dart. Follow their argument where it naturally leads (as any argument occasionally must) to an assertion which might be awkward or unpopular, and watch whether they take it head-on, or duck.

Watch them wherever an opportunity presents itself to win a cheer with a cheap or hateful assertion, and note whether they avoid the temptation to take it. Consider how their case might be made in a constructive or negative way, and note which they choose. Note, above all, which of their audience's instincts they habitually reach for: do they indulge the fear and suspicion of foreigners you can find in any audience, or do they really try to rise above it? Assess their fastidiousness about evidence. Assess their fastidiousness about support: do they accept a cheer from whatever quarter, or are they ready to dissociate themselves from people who support them for the wrong reasons? Look at the types they attract, and accept as allies.

Check their internal consistency. They bark of freedom. Inquire what unpopular as well as popular freedoms they have ever spoken up for. They protest at the imposition of an authority above and outside their own; ask what respect they have shown towards authorities beneath and smaller than their own. Scrutinise their language. I do not mean the outward meaning of their sentences, but the vocabulary and verbal formulations by which they unwittingly reach: these are what send the signals. The use of the conjunction "but", as in "I respect and admire our continental cousins, but..." Such a formulation is designed to place national significance on the first half of the conjunction, while throwing all its real weight forward onto the second. Watch their reliance on knee-jerk expressions: too-words and too-phrases, sharp in impact but unhelpful in meaning, such as "Brussels", "red tape" and "bureaucracy", "jackboot", "German" (used with a gratuitous shudder), "sovereignty" and "interference".

Most of all, ask whether their language is subliminally designed to lift or to lower. It is a curious feature of populist rhetoric (noted by Freud's student, the psycho-political theorist Wilhelm Reich) that although its surface meaning is of leadership and command, its subliminal appeal is to the resentful-

ness of the small man, the subordinate. From the *sansculottes* to the Nazis, from Poujade to Mogens Gistrup, from Oswald Mosley to Anthony Marlow to John Redwood, populism snarls, but it also whimpers.

There is something craven, something whining in its tone. A key signal to look for — and you will find it among the Tory anti-Europeans, nationalist Conservatives and National Socialists — is the refrain that it is not they who are the aggressors. They are only trying to defend themselves. It is others who have acted aggressively, others who started it. It is always the others who are cheating. Every act of aggression by a populist is presented as self-defence, even ("properly understood") loyalty. Mr Redwood was only carrying out John Major's wishes, by standing against him and causing a leadership election. When Tory anti-Europeans had the party whip withdrawn, they presented themselves as victims, rather than the troublemakers they were.

Last week I appeared on a panel for an ITN election special. Along with luminaries greater than I, there was also a zany character in semi-ecclesiastical clothes called John McCrick, a racing tipster for Channel 4. We discussed devolution and nationalism. "Look," said Mr McCrick, "at all the parties which have 'national' or 'nationalist' in their name. The Afrikaaner National Party; Hitler's National Socialists; the Scottish and Welsh national parties." There was, he said, something horrid, something hateful, something mean and negative, about all of them. In all the thousands of words expended by us pundits during the course of that programme, only Mr McCrick's finger in my mind.

And so I shall cleave to John Major, if he wants to keep Britain's European options open, even though I expect he will have to close them in the end. I shall cleave to people like Geoffrey Howe, Douglas Hurd, Chris Patten, Ian Lang, Malcolm Rifkind, Nicholas Scott, though they often seem to me to be wrong. I shall cleave to Kenneth Clarke, though I wish he would change his mind. I shall cleave to all these people, not because I am sure they are right, but because they are good, decent men. Please understand: I do not believe it is men, not measures. But measures alter, men endure; and, in the end, measures follow men. Therefore observe the man.

A party of positive Europeans

Tessa Blackstone says Labour will end our isolation

It was obvious from the start that the Tories would not be able to get through the election campaign without their differences on Europe surfacing. Last week's spectacle of Margaret Thatcher campaigning in the South of England — against the single currency — must have irritated her successor, although John Major escaped having to comment. There was no escape once one of his own ministers broke ranks. Angela Browning, an agriculture minister, announced that she is opposed to the single currency. The Prime Minister did not dismiss her. He feebly defended her, claiming she had said nothing inconsistent with Tory policy. He did so even though the Conservatives' own polls show that 72 per cent of the electorate support his "wait and see" position.

This week, two ministers expressed their opposition to a European currency within a few days of the Prime Minister's claim that it was a fantasy to suggest that ministers' election addresses would be at variance with government policy. Instead of sacking them, Major has caved in again. Apparently it is now possible to have a publicly stated personal view about policy which is different from the agreed government line, and yet stay in the Government.

In a manner unprecedented in the middle of a general election, the Prime Minister had on Wednesday to plead with his own candidates to support his position after it was revealed that nearly 200 have departed from the official party line of "wait and see" and have declared themselves opposed in principle to the single currency in their election addresses. Nearly a third of potential Tory MPs are now in open defiance of their leader on a crucial matter greatly affecting the nation's future. This means that were the Tories to win the election, the open warfare between the pro and anti-European wings of the party would be exacerbated, making it difficult for John Major to govern effectively, and robbing the Government of credibility abroad.

Nearly a quarter of a century after we joined the EEC, Britain's future prosperity and its role in the world are bound up with our membership. We export more to The Netherlands than to all the tiger economies of the Far East. We export twice as much to Denmark as to China. Our position as a major European power guarantees us influence in world trade talks which would vanish if we were out on our own. Inward investment from Japan and the United States has grown because we can offer access to the European market. In these circumstances it is hardly surprising that the chairman of Unilever and other leading businessmen are worried about the mess the Tories are in over Europe.

By contrast, over the past ten years Labour has gradually transformed itself from a party divided and suspicious about Europe into one united and realistic, which recognises the importance of playing a positive role in the shaping of Europe. Last week Michael Heseltine descended to personal abuse in attacking Tony Blair's likely capacity to deal with Herr Kohl and M Chirac. Offensive personal remarks do not go down well with the electorate. Moreover, given the low reputation of Tory ministers on the Continent, the Deputy Prime Minister's attack will have been perceived by many to be from a position of weakness, not strength.

Labour is determined to extend competition within the single market in those areas where Britain is strong and where there are still too many national regulations, including financial services, biotechnology and telecommunications. It will support new, imaginative measures to raise public and private finance for a better infrastructure in European transport and in information superhighways. It will take a tough position on fraud, and support strong powers for the European Court of Justice. For far too long, the European budget has been distorted by the common agricultural policy — a view shared by the two main political parties. But by isolating itself in Europe, the Conservative Government has minimised its influence to put this right.

A new Labour government would play a leading role in guiding the crucial decision-making stages. Britain will assume the presidency of the European Union on January 1, 1998. Labour's position is clear. A single currency offers advantages in terms of monetary stability and low interest rates. Without it, the competitive advantages of a true single market cannot be attained. But those advantages will only be enjoyed if monetary union is constructed on a sound basis. That means not just fulfilling the Maastricht criteria, but ensuring that the real impact on British investment and British jobs will be positive. Labour would only contemplate recommending membership of an economic and monetary union in a referendum in which it is committed if the arrangements pass Labour's strict real economy tests. If Labour wins, Britain will join the single currency only if the Cabinet, Parliament, and the British people agree.

A Tory victory would put at stake not just our participation in economic and monetary union, but our membership of the European Union itself. A Conservative majority with a parliamentary party dominated by Eurosceptics would move us dangerously in the direction of coming out of Europe altogether. There are many reasons for not voting Conservative after 18 years of Tory government. Europe is one of the most important. Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

Fancy dress

LUXURY catalogues for the sale of the dress collection of Diana, Princess of Wales in New York this June are soon to be made available for £1,265 each — the cost of a week's stay in the five-star Sandy Lane hotel in Barbados. The limited edition catalogues, leather-bound and most likely printed on handmade paper, will be the most expensive ever produced by any auctioneer.

With a foreword signed by the Princess, Christie's the auctioneer has already taken orders for more than 50 catalogues for the sale of 80 dresses by the Princess on June 25. The hype surrounding the events eclipses the sale of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's estate, which caught America's imagination, and the 500-page bumper brochure for which cost only £60.

"It's like no catalogue you've ever seen before," trilled a Christie's salesman, who said 250 copies of the special edition issue will be printed. "It will become a collector's item in its own right."

For those who prefer to spend £1,200 on their *haute couture*, Christie's is offering 5,000 hard-back catalogues at £160 each, and

20,000 paperbacks at £35 a throw. Those who decide to bid seriously for one of the 80 dresses on offer, which are expected to raise £4 million for the Princess's favoured charities, should wait before buying the commemorative catalogue. Successful buyers will be presented with their very own copy.



Dress and model

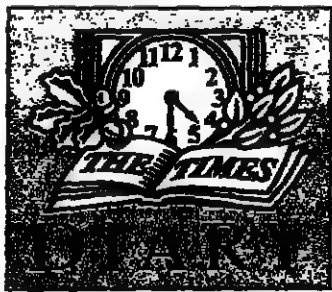
Conditions grow worse on St Helena, the South Atlantic island currently in revolt against its British Governor. Yesterday morning, a colleague tried to send a fax there only to find his fax call answered by a barking male voice. "Hello. Hello? Sorry. We can't accept any faxes until the next plane arrives. The island is completely out of paper."

Impertinence

WHILE no accusations of drug-taking aboard John Major's election jet have ever been levelled at an Observer journalist before, a writer from the paper did run into problems the last time round: he was thrown off the Tory battibus in 1992.

Just as the weird author Will Self's alleged drug-taking proved a bit rich for Major this week, so the antics of John Sweeney, a self-styled "colour writer" for *The Observer*, were too much for the Tory high command in 1992.

Sweeney was at the time making a television documentary and carried with him a camcorder at all times, at one time asking the Prime Minister to film the documentary-maker himself. His attitude went down like a Piers Merchant sex-scandal. Sweeney was



asked not to return to the battibus, on the basis that he was ignoring lobby terms.

Chastened by a report in this newspaper that they were serving the worst travelling food of all the main parties, the Liberal Democrats have been pulling their act together. Instead of the usual crisps and Danish pastries, journalists stepping onto the Lib Dem plane yesterday were greeted by stewardesses bearing bowls of fresh fruit and muesli bars.

Bets off

IN THE delirium after scoring the winning goal for Leicester in the Coca-Cola Cup final, Steve Claridge could not help telling the world about a three-part bet he

had made earlier in the season: Leicester to win the cup, which they have; Leicester to stay in the Premiership, which they are likely to; and Manchester United to win the title, which has still to be decided.

When the FA heard about this, however, it was on to him. "We still have to play United," he said, "and the FA wrote to me pointing out the conflict of interests, so I've had to cancel it." All is not lost, however, for Claridge, who admits to having gambled away some £300,000 during his footballing



"I was making sure his desk was completely cleared"

career. The bonus from winning the cup means that for the first time he has paid off his mortgage.

Ticket to ride

BRITAIN'S envoy to the United Nations, Sir John Weston, will tonight rip the "spirit of ecstasy" statuette off the bonnet of his ambassadorial Rolls-Royce Silver Spur (a light brown beauty) and hand it to Jimmy Hanway, his soft-spoken Glaswegian chauffeur.

Hanway is retiring after driving our men in Manhattan for 21 years, and Weston decided that he should receive the flying lady as a thank-you. It will be handed over at a party by the Hudson tonight.

It has not been easy being a diplomatic driver in New York recently, for mayor Rudolph Giuliani hates illegal parkers. For the record, the reliable Jimmy did not receive a single ticket in his entire career behind the wheel.

"Anyway," said a slightly miffed junior at the British UN Embassy, "we British are about the only diplomats who actually do pay our fines. The Foreign Office insists on it." Unlike the Russians, who run up something like 20 tickets a day.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

CHAIM HERZOG

Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, 1983-93, died in Tel Aviv yesterday aged 78. He was born in Belfast on September 17, 1918.

Later a somewhat patriotic figure in a country not noted for its tolerance of anything that approached an assumption of social superiority, Chaim Herzog exemplified the qualities of that Ashkenazi (north European) elite which effectively created the state of Israel and guided its fortunes in the first thirty years of its existence.

He came of a copper-bottomed rabbinical family in Ireland and had a London University education before being called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn. He had served as an officer with the British Army in the Second World War. He fought in the battles that led to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and rose thereafter to become a general in the Israeli Army. Called to the Israeli Bar at the end of his military career, he founded a highly-respected law firm before going on to develop a distinguished diplomatic career. In 1981 he was elected to the Knesset for the Labour Party.

Nevertheless, by the time Herzog was elected to the first of his two terms in the largely ornamental office of President in 1983, the political atmosphere had changed. Five years earlier the Labour Party, the instrument of Ashkenazi political will in Israel, had for the first time lost its control of the Knesset. A new breed of political "rough beasts", born in Israel and, with a historical memory forged entirely in the cauldron of that country's creation, was making its presence felt. Indeed, when the Labour Party put his name forward as a presidential candidate, his great friend Shimon Peres was at first reluctant to support him, from a feeling that the President of Israel ought to be of non-Ashkenazi origins.

In the event, Herzog's presidency

did not, in fact, suffer from a perception that he was one of "yesterday's men" — or that he considered himself a cut above the common herd. The services he had rendered his country were too great for that to happen. His immensely heartening broadcasts to the nation during the desperate early hours of the Six-Day War, when it at first appeared that the Israeli state was on the verge of extinction, had earned him an ineradicable place in the affections of the people. Both as Ambassador to the UN and as President, he presented his country's position on the international stage, with courage and dignity. Perhaps the somewhat complacent tone of his recently published memoir, *Living History*, did him and his solid achievements less than justice.

A man of fairness and urbane good humour, Herzog retained to the end an admiration of the culture of the British Isles which had nurtured him. His appointment as honorary KBE in 1971 was one of his most prized honours. Chaim Herzog was born in Belfast, the elder son of Rabbi Yitzhak Herzog, but grew up in Dublin, after the family moved there when his father was appointed Chief Rabbi of Ireland. Herzog went to a Dublin school and also joined the Jewish Maccabi youth movement.

He was sent by his father to Palestine in 1935 to study at a yeshiva (Talmudic college) in Jerusalem. While he was there he took the opportunity to join the Haganah (the Jewish Defence Force). He returned to Britain to take an LLB degree at London University and was subsequently called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn.

In 1939 he enlisted in the British Army and later took part in the Normandy landings and the North-West Europe campaign. He was among the first Allied soldiers to cross the Rhine and was wounded in the fighting around Bremen.

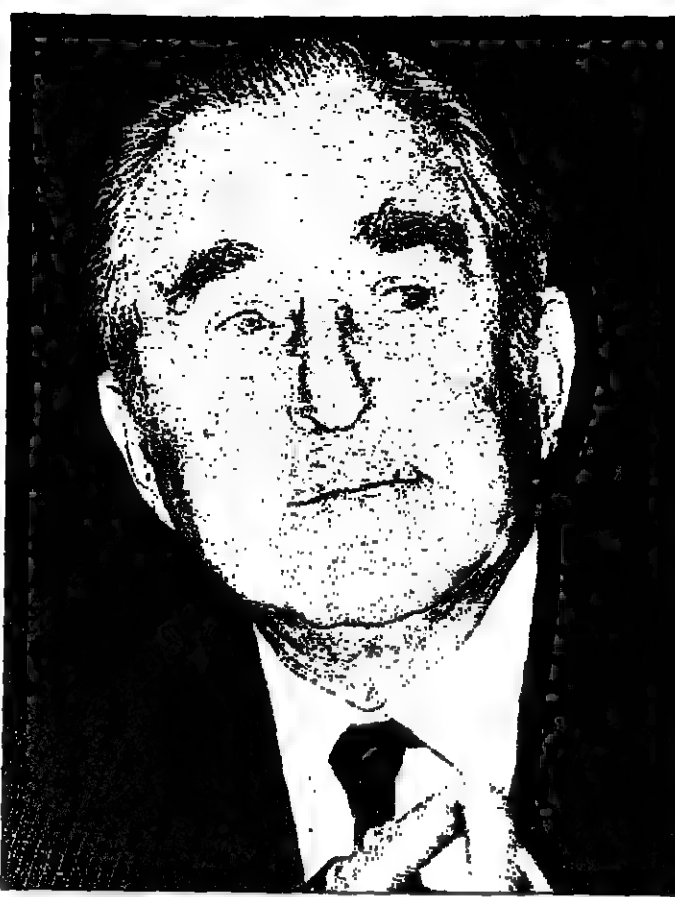
He recovered quickly and served with Army Intelligence, with the rank of major, in northern Germany. As such he was one of the last interrogators of Heinrich Himmler, before the head of the SS committed suicide.

Demobilised from the British Army in 1947, Herzog decided to rejoin the Haganah in Palestine, where his father was now Chief Rabbi. With the war between the Jews and the Arabs soon to break out on the departure of the British from Palestine, Herzog became head of the Jewish Agency's security department. During the war, he fought in the battle for Latrun as an operations officer with the Seventh Brigade. On the formation of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), he was appointed head of the intelligence department of the General Staff Branch.

In 1950 he was appointed military attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, where he served for four years, returning to Israel to become commander of the Jerusalem District. From 1957 to 1959 he was OC Southern Command, then for the next three years, until his retirement from the Army (with the rank of major-general) he returned to his former post as head of Army Intelligence.

Having been called to the Israeli Bar, Herzog opened his own law firm and represented Sir Isaac Wolfson and his Great Universal Stores in Israel. But his interest in army and security matters remained intense. He won acclaim during the Six-Day War in 1967 with his radio commentaries. Although the war was very soon to be seen as a crushing victory, in the build-up to it the public was in a state of acute anxiety created by the Egyptian maritime blockade, by a sense that on all sides its enemies were closing in and hell-bent on its destruction.

Herzog's calm, analytical talks over the forces' radio network, spiced with a dose of humour (and



what some called Irish blarney), reassured a population which had initially been thoroughly alarmed by stories of Egyptian strength. During the Yom Kippur War of 1973, he was reinstated as Israel's chief military commentator on the radio, once again displaying his qualities as an astute observer. Again, he was widely listened to by a troubled population, which in the opening days of the conflict had to accept the fact that the Egyptian Army was making dramatic advances, while the Israelis fought to contain Syria on the Golan Heights.

After the Israeli occupation of the

West Bank in 1967, Herzog had been appointed military commander there. But he soon returned to his law practice and business interests. His strong liking for the British people was reflected in his presidency of the Israel-British Commonwealth Association.

In 1975 Vigal Alon, then Foreign Minister, appointed him Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, a post which had been held by his brother-in-law, Abba Eban. He championed his country's cause with skill, but could not prevent the UN from passing a resolution equating Zionism with racism. Herzog attacked the decision with a

passionate defence of his country's position, ripping a copy of the draft resolution to shreds when he went to the podium to speak against it.

He remained at his post in 1977 when the Government of Menachem Begin, with whom he had little sympathy, was formed, following the surprise defeat of the Labour Party. But he resigned in 1978 to return home to his law practice, his writing, his business interests, and the leadership of such organisations as Ori, for the world technical training of Jewish youth.

He campaigned for the reform of the Israeli electoral system to enable Members of the Knesset to represent districts or constituencies on the British model. He formed the Committee for Concerned Citizens to enable Israelis of British origin to participate more fully in Israeli politics and to spread more widely British virtues of tolerance and politeness. He was welcomed by the leadership of the Labour Party (in which Abba Eban was a leading figure), was one of the chief organisers of the party's 1981 election campaign, and won a seat in the 10th Knesset. But his standing in the party suffered from its failure to dislodge Begin from power.

Herzog suffered a heart attack in 1982, and it was while he was convalescing that he heard that he had been elected a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. When Itzhak Navon announced that he would not seek another term as President, the Labour Party decided to put forward Herzog's name for the post. In opposition to the candidate presented by the governing Likud coalition, a worthy but little known judge of the Supreme Court, Professor Menachem Elon. With its command of the 64 out of 120 votes in the Knesset, the Likud seemed certain to have its candidate elected, but Herzog's popularity crossed party lines, and in March 1983, to the chagrin of Begin, Herzog

received 61 votes to Elon's 57. Like his brother-in-law Abba Eban (who was Foreign Minister, 1966-74) Herzog was occasionally perceived as being somewhat aloof from the concerns of ordinary people, and his image was also tarnished with the country's liberal Establishment when, in 1986, he granted presidential pardons to agents of the security service, Shin Bet, who had allegedly been involved in killing two Arab captives. In a similar case, in 1990 he was criticised for commuting the sentences of Jewish underground members who had been convicted of killing Arabs in the occupied West Bank.

Among Herzog's many trips abroad during his presidency was a visit in 1987 to the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen which he had first seen as a British officer soon after its liberation in April 1945. One of his last foreign tours was a visit to Britain in February, 1993, when he discussed the progress of the Arab-Israeli peace process with the Prime Minister, John Major. Herzog retired as President in May of that year and was succeeded by Ezer Weizman.

At periods of inner tension in the country, Herzog, with his gift for words — the Irish brogue still distinct in his English and his Hebrew impeccable — his humour, and his refusal to take extreme stands, was valued as a source of strength and urbane reassurance, which was an antidote to the actions of the more excitable, rough and tough politicians of a younger generation.

Herzog wrote several books on Israel's wars with the Arabs, as well as (with Mordecai Gikun) *Battles Of The Bible* (1978). In all his books, he wrote with lucidity and with good grasp of his subject.

His wife, Aura, née Ambache (a member of a distinguished Egyptian-Jewish family), has been a leader of several cultural organisations in Israel. They had three sons and a daughter.

TADEUSZ ZENCZYKOWSKI ZAWADSKI



Tadeusz Zenczykowski Zawadski, wartime Polish resistance fighter, died on March 30 aged 90. He was born on January 2, 1907.

IN 1938, at the age of 31, Tadeusz Zenczykowski Zawadski became the youngest Member of Parliament in Poland. A year later the German forces invaded Poland. Zenczykowski Zawadski put forward a resolution that all MPs should volunteer for the Army. He himself led by example. By October 1939 he had been arrested and taken prisoner of war. Zenczykowski Zawadski escaped his captors a few months later and began those activities in the Polish Resistance which were to make him, at one time, perhaps the most wanted man in Poland.

He was the organiser of "Action N", a relentless, psychological and diversionary

campaign against his country's occupiers. It famously included the production and extensive distribution of what the Germans commonly believed to be a newspaper produced for the occupying forces by the Germans. Although, in the most subtle ways undermining of the occupiers, it could readily be obtained all over Poland.

By 1944 he had become one of the initiators and organisers of "Blyskawica" (Lightning), the only radio station to broadcast from the ill-fated Warsaw uprising. He recruited people by his enthusiasm and conviction and actors, journalists and writers joined the radio team on short waves 32.8 and 52.1. Meanwhile, on medium wave, "Action N" continued its diversionary work, transmitting programmes aimed at the Wehrmacht.

Two years earlier, in the hope of capturing Zenczy-

kowski Zawadski, the Gestapo arrested, interrogated and tortured his wife, sending her first to Majdanek concentration camp and then to Auschwitz. She escaped only during the German evacuation of Poland in 1945. The couple were reunited and avoided further arrest by escaping to Italy where they joined the 2nd Polish Corps with whom they came to London. In 1953 they settled in Munich.

But if his fight with Nazism had ended, the postwar years saw Zenczykowski Zawadski engaged in a tireless battle against Communism. He became deputy director of the Polish broadcasting department of Radio Free Europe. For 20 years his broadcasts and political commentaries on the turbulent events taking place in his homeland were a regular feature of Polish life and the subject of widespread discussion. Listeners learn what their own state radio refused to transmit.

At that time Warsaw had only three radio stations and concerted government efforts were made to ban and scramble transmissions, yet the Polish department of Radio Free Europe became universally known as "Warsaw 4".

In his retirement in the 1970s, Zenczykowski Zawadski left Munich to live in London.

During his life he had published numerous articles and pamphlets as well as books on the history of Poland and the Polish Resistance — some with print-runs in excess of 20,000 copies — many run off on the underground presses in Poland.

His work is often quoted by Polish historians today, many of whom were educated on these clandestine texts. From London he was in close contact with, and an active supporter of, KOR (the Workers Defence Committee) which was eventually to go on to spawn Solidarity.

He leaves his widow Danka. They had no children.

Eric Holt, English painter and craftsman, died of brain cancer on March 31 aged 52. He was born on May 12, 1944.

AN ECCENTRIC painter, Eric Holt was much more like such oddballs as Stanley Spencer and Edward Burra than any more conventional successors of Sickert and his traditions of art. Throughout his career he resolutely made his own way through the tangles of art.

In his childhood Holt was dyslexic and was assumed to be mentally backward. Fortunately he showed artistic talent and was chosen for a special art course at a nearby school when he was 13. From there he went to Epsom Art School for three years, and then, briefly, to Wimbledon School of Art, before leaving to earn his living.

Holt was always primarily a painter. But he was almost fanatically slow and set himself exacting technical standards. He would work and rework his canvases again and again until he was convinced he had got them just right.

At the start of his career he took a heterogeneous array of jobs, including groundsman on a caravan site, van driver, factory worker and digger of tunnels for a civil engineering firm. He moved on to restoring antique furniture — a craft which always fascinated him. In fact, if he had had the time, he would have liked to have built his own house, made his own furniture and grown all his own food.

He had a passion for the countryside and for nature. He also loved country crafts, some time before it became fashionable to do so. In the months before his death, when cancer had already been diagnosed, he set out to make a wooden table the top of which would be inlaid with samples from every British tree.

His expertise as a restorer was so valued by his employ-



Eric Holt's *The Feeding of the Five Thousand* (1983)

ers that they were far from pleased when he decided that he should concentrate entirely on his painting. But it increasingly became necessary for him to do so. While he had been working on other jobs he had been able to produce only two pictures a year.

From 1971 onwards, Holt was a fixture of the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. In 1972 he had his first one-man show at the Maltzahn Gallery, and in 1977 he began to show at the Piccadilly Gallery. This was to remain his dealer for the rest of his life. Until 1978 he was living and working in Purley, but later he bought a cottage near Sandringham. He was amused that, despite the simplicity of the place, the Queen's personal signature was re-

quired on the deed of purchase. Holt's usual subject-matter was meticulously observed people doing quite usual things but in a slightly bizarre, or even fantastic, context. His compositions were usually crowded and complex, his figures apparently pulled hither and thither by unseen forces which lent dynamism to even the most static subjects. Latterly, the pictures became more surreal, with increasingly a touch of satire, as in *The Blind Leading the Blind or Bishops and Politicians*, both painted in the late 1980s. But the observation was quizzical rather than bitter.

Throughout his final illness he continued to work. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and a son and a daughter.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all. Donations urgently needed by The British Kidney Patient Association. Borden, Hants, GU35 9JZ. Reps. Charity No. 27028.

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1918 the RAF has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war; and today, wherever conflict arises. Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.

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ON THIS DAY

April 18, 1900

With the arrival in January of Lord Roberts as C-in-C, the war took a more favourable turn for the British forces; Ladysmith was relieved in February and Mafeking in May.

For the purpose of carrying important despatches to Colonel Baden-Powell and becoming acquainted with the disposition of the enemy's forces and the condition of Mafeking. He was accompanied by a native diviner who preceded him carrying a rod, by the aid of which the native claimed to be able to detect the presence of Boers. Lieutenant Smithman made the journey in two nights from Colonel Plumer's camp. The undertaking was without exciting incident until he reached the outlying defences of Mafeking, when he found himself in trenches so distant from the town that he

concluded that they must be the enemy's. Lying quiet the diviner, whose powers were sadly at fault, was unable to decide to whom the trench belonged. Presently, however, he discovered from conversation with some natives that these were our lines. Lieutenant Smithman, having completed his journey by delivering his despatches, stayed in Mafeking for some days.

THE PRISONERS AT ST. HELENA.

(THROUGH REUTERS AGENCY.)

ST. HELENA, APRIL 16. The whole of the Boer prisoners brought by the Milwaukes were landed to-day and sent in two batches, first the officers and then the men, to the camp which has been prepared for them at Deadwood Plain. The men were very dirty and poorly clad, but all seemed cheerful and glad to get ashore. The march to Deadwood occupied three hours, and there were many stragglers, wearied by their long confinement on board ship, who were placed in the ambulances which accompanied the party.

The prisoners were met at the camp gate by the file band of the 3rd West India Regiment, which played them in. The prisoners are all pleased with the healthy situation of their new quarters.

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TODAY



BUSINESS

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on the reasons for
EMU 'wait and see'
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EDUCATION

How a child lost
out for a secondary
school place
PAGE 39



SPORT

Cronje runs rule
over Australia's
Ashes tour party
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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
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FRIDAY APRIL 18 1997

Co-op suspends two after leaks

BY JASON NISSE



Green: under suspicion

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society has suspended two of its most senior staff under suspicion of a serious breach of trust relating to dealings with companies controlled by Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur who has been trying to buy parts of the CWS.

Manchester headquarters yesterday morning. Mr Green is one of the five-strong management executive of the CWS and both he and Mr Chambers are part of the trading committee that effectively runs the retailing giant. The two worked together at Hilliards, the Yorkshire food retailer bought by Tesco in the 1980s. Mr Green left to join Booker and came to the CWS in 1990, while Mr Chambers joined the CWS in 1993 after a spell at Poundstretcher.

CWS said there was a suspected recent breach of trust — believed to be connected to the leaks of extracts from CWS's annual report which were passed to last weekend's press by public relations firms acting for Mr Regan.

The CWS has asked Linklaters & Paines, the solicitors, and KPMG, the accountants, to investigate business dealings between CWS operations run by Mr Green and Mr Chambers and companies controlled by Mr Regan.

The CWS sold F E Barber, its food manufacturing business, to Mr Regan's Hobson for £11 million in 1994. Eighteen months later Hobson was sold to Hilldown Holdings for £121 million with Mr Regan making a £2.7 million profit from the deal.

Mr Regan re-emerged in Lanica Trust, a Guernsey-based group, last year. After stories appeared in February about a possible bid by Lanica for part of the CWS its shares were suspended by the Stock Exchange. Talks between the Exchange and Lanica, along with Hambros, its financial advisers, about an alleged breach of Exchange rules have been progressing. But no conclusion has been reached and the shares remain suspended.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4288.9	(+4.3)
Yield	3.76%	
FTSE All share	2089.10	(+1.84)
Nikkei	18093.41	(+62.21)
New York		
Dow Jones	8699.14	(+19.27)
S&P Composite	766.73	(+3.20)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	94 3/8%	(93 3/8%)
Yield	7.05%	(7.10%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Libor long	110%	(108 1/4%)
Future (Jun)		
STERLING		
New York	1.8308*	(1.8247)
London	1.8288	(1.8221)
DM	2.9106	(2.9039)
FF	3.4585	(3.4278)
Yen	195.92*	(195.85)
S Index	100.0	(99.7)
DOLLAR		
London	1.7237*	(1.7283)
DM	5.8028*	(5.8140)
FF	1.4678*	(1.4720)
Yen	125.92*	(125.85)
S Index	105.8	(105.0)
Tokyo close Yen	125.44	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 16-day (Jul)	\$18.00	(\$18.00)
GOLD		
London close	\$345.18	(\$357.88)
* denotes midday trading price		

Pennington, page 27

Inflation falls to lowest for two years, but short of Tory target

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNDERLYING inflation dropped to its lowest level for two years in March, but left the Government just short of meeting its own inflation target.

The Government's favoured measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage payments, fell to an annual rate of 2.7 per cent in March, compared with 2.9 per cent in February.

Cigarettes ban sparks snap reply

THE European Court yesterday banned the sale of cut-price cigarettes by mail order in Britain (Alasdair Murray writes).

However, inflation rates in clothing and footwear, as well as household goods, rose sharply as retailers took advantage of growing consumer confidence to push through price increases.

Household goods inflation rose 2.5 per cent in March, pushing up the annual rate to 1.7 per cent from 0.9 per cent the previous month. Clothing and footwear prices jumped 2 per cent taking the annual rate to 1.1 per cent, from 0.5 per cent in February.



Engineers at Harland & Wolff assessing the damage sustained by Sea Empress

Tanker returns as Sea Spirit

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Sea Empress, the tanker that shed more than 70,000 tonnes of oil when it ran aground last year, will set sail again next month.

Renamed Sea Spirit, the vessel will emerge from a £22 million refit — the biggest undertaken in the UK — to resume transporting oil for its Cypriot owners.

More than 2,800 tonnes of steel have gone into the ship to repair damage done when Sea Empress became stranded off Milford Haven in South Wales in February last year.

The giant tanker, which is the length of three football fields and can carry 130,000 tonnes of crude oil, will leave the dry dock at Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyard by early next month. It is owned by Seatankers, who will put the ship on the spot market for hire on a voyage-by-voyage basis to take oil from fields to buyers.

The name has been changed to ward off bad luck, the ship's operators say. Sea Empress caused an environmental disaster when it ran aground. Thousands of seabirds died and the shellfish industry had to be suspended.

The Environment Agency is considering a prosecution of the Department of Transport and Milford Haven port authority for alleged mishandling of the accident.

Pennington, page 27

HoF chiefs put their jobs on the line

BY JASON NISSE



Coleman: making changes

THE chairman and chief executive of House of Fraser yesterday vowed to resign if they failed to restore the fortunes of the ailing department stores company by the end of the year.

Brian McGowan, the chairman, said he would "fall on his sword" and leave without compensation if the initiatives put in place by John Coleman, brought in as chief executive last year, did not work.

These include the launch of a new own brand, due to be unveiled in July, which Mr Coleman said would provide "a confident designer image at affordable prices," as well as low-cost refits of stores and streamlining management, which will cut 1,000 of the 8,600 employees.

Mr Coleman said the company had no plans to dispose of more stores, after withdrawing from Eastbourne, Scunthorpe and Sheffield. He said Fraser was close to selling one of these stores and talks were progressing on the other two.

The low cost refurbishment of four stores, costing between £10 per square foot and £20 per square foot, will be rolled out in another 15 stores if it is successful.

Mr Coleman said he would also change the mix of products in the department stores to reflect the different demographics of the customers.

The shares rose 1/2 p to 165p on the figures.

Tempus, page 28

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□ Co-op allegations cloud Lanica purchase □ Tale of two property companies □ Whither for Alan Sugar and Amstrad?

To the Devil his due

IF the purchase of large swathes of the Co-operative movement by a souped-up 1980s-style wheeler-dealer looked implausible yesterday morning, it looked the closest thing to downright impossible by the afternoon.

Andrew Regan was already being depicted by the Co-op management as a man in league with the Devil; if the allegations about his relationship with two of its apparent stalwarts are even remotely true, members will be inclined to issue him with the full horns and tail.

Ever since the intentions of Mr Regan's Lanica Trust, and its Galileo vehicle, towards the Co-op became known, there has always been a suspicion that he had some edge that no one had yet spotted, some key that would gain him entry to the sealed room and let him make away with the valuables. This impression was heightened, it must be said, by those few of his advisers prepared to speak.

The hints were that there was indeed some such angle. Can't say what, give the lad time, something up his sleeve, you'll see. Was he going straight to the members for grass roots support for change at the top? Difficult but not impossible under the Co-op's structure of executives who are delegated power by those members. Something like that, really can't say, was the only reply.

If the allegations made by the Co-op are true, then at least one advantage Mr Regan had was access to inside information. And if that is the case, then suborning two top executives will endear him even less to those members and reinforce his image as a City spiv. End of bid — finally. Now get lost, and take your battered reputation with you.

And if so, there is no reason for the continued suspension of Lanica shares. The Stock Exchange should insist on the relevant information from the company to allow trading to restart, so those of his backers who have lost faith with Mr Regan can get out. If the share price tumbles, it will only be back to where it should have been all along.

But while Mr Regan may have played his cards appallingly, from the first leak of his intentions through the months of silence interspersed with nods and winks, the legacy of the affair may not be entirely negative. Things at the Co-op will never be the same, and they can only improve. The merger between the retail and wholesale

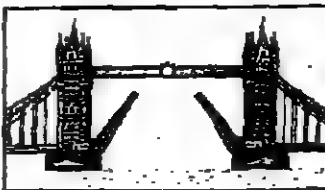
arms may have been rejected, but it still looks inevitable. Light has been thrown on the value of the Co-op Bank and its quality customer base. Members have been woken up to the under-performance of much of the retail business.

Pressure for change and demutualisation will come from them. There are two possibilities. Either the Co-op's existing management will find the ability to shake up the business itself. Or someone rather more acceptable to the spirit of the Co-op movement will make a more tactful approach to do the job, and be welcomed this time.

Chesterton looks to new Holmes

EXTRAORDINARY how those professionals paid small fortunes to order our affairs are so spectacularly awful at ordering their own. Accountants and solicitors are notoriously bad at managing their businesses, while the rebirth of the housing market will not have come a moment too early for the nation's

PENNINGTON



estate agents. Many have made a pig's ear of their own property needs, committed themselves to huge rental bills on outlets that are no longer pulling in the fees.

The housing upturn has come too late, alas, for Chesterton International, owner of some rather posh estate agents, or those investors asked to put up for new shares at 78p six months before the company found that some £1.4 million of profits were under offer elsewhere.

The black hole turned up by the accountants cost the chief executive his job in September, and yesterday his replacement arrived to continue the clearout — and the one-off writedowns. Chestertons, which had managed to cram 13 people into the

boardroom without any of them noticing anything was wrong, will now have to rub along with a mere nine directors.

The fund-raising a year ago was to buy back for a song its old chain of estate agents, sold 11 years ago to the Pru as part of the latter's *via dolorosa* through property services. This looks a shrewd move, given the progress of the housing market since, as does diversification into other areas of consultancy work.

But it is the provenance of the new chief executive that gives the game away. He joins from Rentokil. There is a load of guff about Michael Holmes's experience in the construction industry, blah, blah, but he is a rat-catcher, from a company well respected for its rat-catching skills. Management expertise will out, it seems.

Just look across to another part of the property jungle and Conrad Riblat, the side arm of John Riblat of British Land fame, with a £10 million purchase and an upbeat trading statement. Mr Riblat has cleverly been building up the property assets to reduce reliance on

estate agency. He may know plenty about property, but Mr Riblat also knows a thing or two about running companies.

Cash is the question

THIS morning the shareholders of Amstrad will turn up at an extraordinary general meeting and, unless they suffer a collective attack of stupidity, vote to approve the group's £92 million sale of its mobile phone business, Dancall. As Alan Sugar put it, Bosch made an offer he could hardly refuse. But his other comments, about finding a tax-efficient way of returning the money to shareholders, are sounding hollow. Amstrad shareholders, of which Sugar is the biggest, wait in vain.

Having had a good look at Amstrad, the Stock Exchange has decided it does not breach the listing requirements which forbid companies with only cash from maintaining a quote. The Exchange believes that Amstrad still has a substantial business, but the market appears to disagree.

The simple fact is that there is little more than cash in Amstrad. After this deal the company will have more than £220 million of cash against a market capitalisation of £256 million. It has a 66 per cent stake in Betacom, which owns the original Amstrad businesses, worth £31 million. This means Amstrad's other asset, the Viglen personal computer business, is valued at buttons despite sales of £118 million.

In attempting to return the cash to shareholders, Sugar is approaching this from the wrong angle. He should liquidate the company, so for one share in Amstrad investors would receive a share in Viglen, two thirds of a share in Betacom and a lot of cash. This would allow Sugar to concentrate on making money out of Tottenham Hotspur, which is what he is good at.

Sea change

THE spirit of Windscale is alive and well. Younger readers may need reminding that Windscale is what Sellafield used to be called before the image consultants decided the name cast a bit of a pall when it came to booking day trips around the facility, and changed it. Now *Sea Spirit* is re-launched as *Sea Spirit*. God bless her, and can safely go back to the South Wales coast again.

Fisher must change ways, says England

By PAUL DURMAN

NEIL ENGLAND, the new chief executive of Albert Fisher, has outlined a host of changes the poorly performing food company still needs to make, nearly five years after it began its attempted turnaround.

Mr England, who joined from the Mars confectionery group in November, said Fisher had underinvested in its workforce, including management. The company needs to modernise the management of its factories and to improve productivity. He said it needs to make better use of new product ideas and to take the initiative in advising supermarkets how to display its products. He also wants to extend the use of the Fisher brand throughout the group.

Mr England said his comments are not intended as a criticism of the past, but a change of focus. Stephen Wallis, chairman, said that since he took over in July 1992 Fisher had sold 60 per cent of its businesses as it moved away from commodity foods into higher-margin areas.

Mr England has ordered a "management audit" as part of a group-wide training initiative. He wants to set written objectives for every employee.

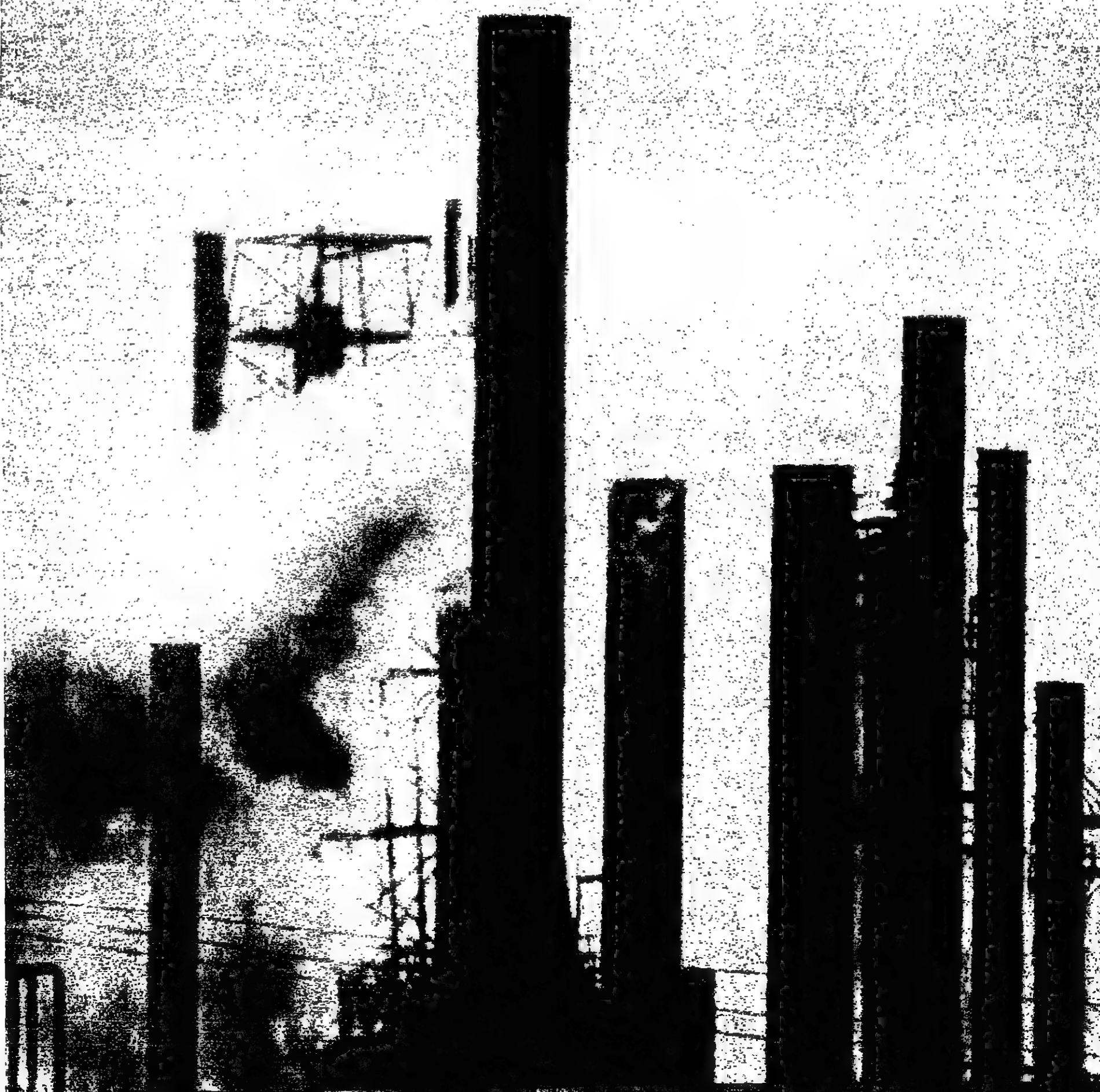
Mr Wallis said Fisher had a good half in the six months to February 28, increasing underlying pre-tax profits from £18.8 million to £19.1 million. "Clean" earnings rose 5 per cent to 1.97p a share. Mr Wallis said he was "absolutely delighted" not to have to report further exceptional losses and write-offs.

The strong pound cost Fisher £1.3 million in profits. Sales of the continuing business fell slightly to £58.4 million, but would have been £30 million higher if sterling had remained unchanged. The company also had to overcome the "devastation" of its Dutch coddle beds by last year's severe winter, and the collapse in potato and other vegetable prices.

Fisher is again paying an interim dividend of 1.85p, due on July 4.

Tempos, page 28

THE ENGLISH ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR GARDENS. NO WONDER THE GERMANS ASK US TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PLANTS.



Approval for C&W venture

By ERIC REGULY

SHAREHOLDERS in Cable and Wireless have approved the formation of Cable and Wireless Communications, a £5 billion phone and cable company that will emerge as British Telecom's biggest competitor.

CWC is to be created by the merger of Mercury Communications, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W, and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies. C&W will own 52.6 per cent of CWC, whose shares are to begin trading at the end of the month on the London and New York stock exchanges.

The new company will start with 1.1 million cable-telephony customers, 580,000 cable-TV customers and proforma turnover of £1.9 billion, based on year-end figures. Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, said that CWC would grow by expanding its cable networks and through acquisitions. Several medium-size cable companies, including General Cable, are thought to be on its shopping list.

Japanese link for Tie Rack

By FRASER NELSON

TIE RACK, the tie to luggage retailer, is setting up a £9 million joint venture in Japan with Fujita, the Japanese retailing group.

The company, which has been testing the Japanese market for almost two years, plans to open ten shops in the country by the end of the year. Nigel McGinley, chief executive, said: "Japan is an extremely expensive market to operate in, but we're not expecting high returns in the short term."

Fujita, which owns 50 per cent of the Japanese operations of McDonald's and 20 per cent of the country's Toys R Us business, has been running 27 Tie Rack shops under licence.

Tie Rack lifted pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £8.79 million in the 12 months to February 2. It opened 36 shops over the year, bringing the total to 415. It now runs 21 airport concessions in 11 countries. Earnings were 10.73p (9.87p) a share, and the dividend rises to 3.35p (2.75p). A final 2.75p is payable on July 29.

Prudential sales point to savings slowdown

SIGNS that recent strong growth in the British savings market is flattening emerged yesterday when the Prudential reported sales of single-premium products rising by just 2 per cent to £885 million in the first quarter of the year (Marianne Curphey writes).

The market leader was helped, however, by buoyant sales of savings products in the US and Asia. These pushed Prudential's worldwide single-premium sales up 22 per cent to £1.8 billion in the

first quarter. Prudential is the biggest name in UK pensions, and the first-quarter figures are widely regarded as an industry barometer. Regular-premium products in the UK were more buoyant, up 18 per cent to £84 million.

The figures come just two months after Prudential launched a £20 million advertising campaign to modernise its image. A series of TV commercials feature Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, as "the man from the Pru".

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CITY DIARY

Bowe upsets Abbott

COLETTE Bowe, PIA chief executive, has incurred the wrath of Diane Abbott, who has accused her of misleading the Treasury Select Committee. Abbott, a member of Labour's National Executive Committee, says she was deliberately given the wrong impression last month over the PIA's handling of the pensions transfer review. She accused Bowe of ingratiating herself with members of the Labour Party ahead of its plans to merge the PIA, Imro, and SFA, into a Super-SIR. "Bowe is a clever woman, perhaps too clever by half," she hissed. "She has been trying to ingratiate herself into a job in any new regulatory structure, but it will be over my dead body."



Diane Abbott claims a committee was misled

Villa windfall

EYEBROWS were raised this week when an elderly lady walked into the Birmingham offices of Albert E Sharp. The kind brokers gave her a seat and offered her a cup of tea. "Are these worth anything?" she said, waving a handful of Aston Villa share certificates gingerly in the air. The dear old lady, I am told, walked out £1.3 million richer, and a little less stooped.

Imro bonuses

IMRO, the financial regulator, was totting up sweeteners yesterday, but these ones were to be distributed among its own staff. They are said to be leaving in their droves because of uncertainty over the future of the regulatory structure. Desperate to hold onto staff, the one-off bonuses were calculated at 30 per cent of the total annual pay roll. Only 24 hours after the regulator for fund managers slapped a £2 million fine on Morgan Grenfell, Imro has managed to match that figure with its own bonuses.

THE RSPCA was called to Broadgate Arena yesterday. No, not to wrestle with those bears at Lehman Brothers but to weed out two ducks and their family from their home in the Square Mile.

Back-peddalling

JOHN COLEMAN, chief executive at House of Fraser, is worried that he might be dubbed the new Gerald Ratner. Explaining yesterday that the group still hadn't received delivery of some of the large amounts of slow-selling stock that Fraser is having to discount at one fifth of the expected price, he was asked whether the group had contracted to buy rubbish. "Essentially, yes," he said, then started back-peddalling. "The product was bought with the best of intentions. It is just inappropriate for our selling strategy."

Great Turner

TIME BOOKS is publishing a grandly titled hardback, *Greatest Personalities of the 20th Century*, with six portraits on the cover including Martin Luther King, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein and, er, Ted Turner. Not so unrealistic when you remember that Time Warner is part of the Time-Warner empire of which he is the principal shareholder.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Blair and Major say 'wait and see' on the euro

Both leaders would join EMU if it seemed politically expedient

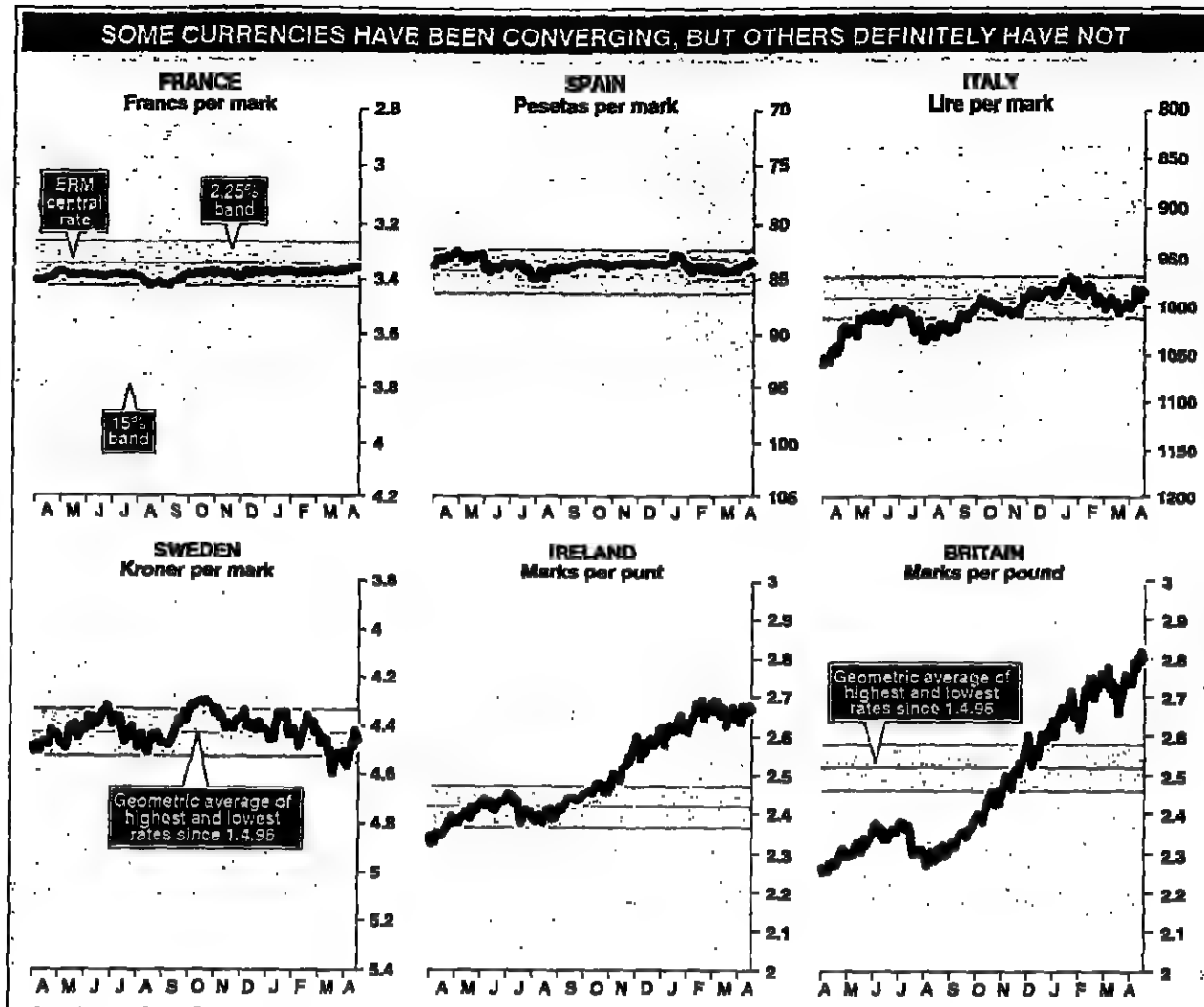
The point of no return in this election campaign was reached on Wednesday when John Major was forced to acknowledge publicly that he could no longer lead his party on Europe. In deciding to make his bizarre appeal to the country over the heads of his own backbenchers and ministers, Mr Major was effectively admitting defeat in the election: he could never again command a majority in Parliament. But the tragic inevitability of the Tory defeat on May 1 is hardly worth writing about. What is more interesting about Mr Major's final humiliation is its unexpected impact on Britain's relationship with Europe.

Strange as it may seem, the main consequence of Europe finally emerging as a central issue in this rapid election campaign will be to make Britain's membership of the single currency in 1999 somewhat more likely. In saying this, I am not actually predicting that Britain will join. The odds are still stacked against Britain joining, since the public remains viscerally opposed and even some businessmen are beginning to understand the economic arguments in favour of floating exchange rates (those who still don't should read Anthony Harris's brilliantly succinct exposition on this page last Wednesday). The point is, however, that the chances of Britain being dragged into monetary union by the next government are now a good deal higher than the zero probability assigned to this event, for example, by a Reuters survey of bankers yesterday — or, more importantly, by the spin-doctors who claim to know the "true instincts" of John Major and Tony Blair.

There is only one rational explanation for Mr Major's insistence that Britain must keep open the option to join EMU — whatever the political costs to the Tories and to himself. The Prime Minister must genuinely believe that a strong case could soon emerge for Britain to opt into EMU.

The alternative tactical explanations simply will not wash. It is said, for example, that Mr Major had to reinforce the EMU option because otherwise Kenneth Clarke would have resigned, but two weeks before the election this is beyond belief. Equally implausible was Mr Major's own tactical explanation. To rule out the single currency, he said, would be to "send the British Prime Minister naked into the conference chamber with nothing to negotiate".

This statement is quite simply false. First there is nothing to be negotiated. All the main parameters of EMU — the



anti-democratic constitution of the European Central Bank, the narrow definition of its objectives and the economically illiterate convergence criteria — were agreed five years ago in Maastricht by Mr Major himself. All that remains to be settled are the countries to be admitted to EMU, the name of the ECB's president and the precise operating procedures for the conduct of monetary policy.

On the first of these issues, Britain would retain its vote even if the Government formally declared today that it had no intention of joining EMU. Indeed that is precisely what the Danish Government did last year. As for decisions on the detailed operations of the central bank and its senior appointments, these will only be taken by the countries that join EMU after they join. To have any influence on the ECB, therefore, Britain would have to adopt the single currency. No additional influence would be achieved merely by keeping the option open.

Why then does Mr Major insist on his "wait and see" position? And why does Mr Blair agree? It must be because they both want the freedom actually to join EMU in 1999 if this seems expedient.

The trouble is that everything in both Mr Major's and Mr Blair's records suggests that the decision on EMU — if the option to join remains open — will be taken on the basis of short-term political expediency rather than on the constitutional and economic principles underlying this gigantic experiment.

This brings us to the man who will actually take the decision — Tony Blair. Like Mr Major, the Labour leader has insisted on keeping his options

open, while trying to appease Eurosceptics — in his case, with a mantra about "formidable obstacles to Britain joining in 1999". Mr Blair's minders have hinted strongly that the "formidable obstacles" are in fact insurmountable. Effectively, they say, there is no prospect of Labour joining the single currency in 1999. But like Mr Major's strange remark about nudity in the EU negotiating chambers, Labour's claim about formidable obstacles is simply untrue.

In terms of the Maastricht criteria, Britain will easily pass muster on the main tests — the ratio of public borrowing to GDP will both be lower than Germany's, while the public debt, the rate of inflation and the level of long-term interest rates will all be comfortably within the Maastricht limits. There is, in fact, only one formal obstacle to Britain joining the single currency in 1999. This obstacle — the instability of sterling — is hugely important from a business and economic standpoint, but is rather puny from a legalistic point of view. In theory, Maastricht requires the currency of any country applying to join EMU to "respect the normal fluctuation margins provided by the exchange-rate mechanism without severe tensions for at least the last two years before the examination". If this requirement were taken literally, British membership in 1999 would be ruled out, since sterling is not even in the ERM.

It seems increasingly likely, however, that this condition will be interpreted to admit countries whose currencies have fluctuated within a narrow enough range, even if they were not formally within the

ERM. The question then is what the "normal fluctuation margins" mean. If the 2.25 per cent margins that existed until August 1993 were treated as "normal", Britain would not have the slightest chance of qualifying (see charts). But in that case Italy, Ireland and Sweden would also be unable to qualify. If, on the other hand, the present "temporary" margins of 15 per cent were taken as normal, every European country would easily qualify on this "convergence criterion". In practice, this liberal interpretation is too likely — especially if a British government anxious to join EMU were voting along with Ireland and Italy. Maybe this is why Messrs Major and Blair both mean by retaining their freedom to negotiate.

In practice it seems, then, that Mr Blair's "formidable obstacles" to EMU do not exist. The obstacles that do exist are either matters of principle and national interest — on which neither of the main party leaders seems to have any view — or issues of parliamentary tactics. In British politics, of course, there will be big obstacles to joining EMU. But they look a lot less daunting today than they did a week ago.

Mr Major's amazing offer yesterday of a free vote in Parliament if he were re-elected would transform the practical politics in favour of EMU in the unlikely event of the Tories being returned to power. For in a free vote the Tory Eurosceptics could almost certainly be overwhelmed by a coalition of pro-Europeans from all parties — as they were in 1972. More importantly, the utter confusion in the Tory camp has taken all pressure off Mr Blair to move in a more sceptical direction or even to clarify his

position on Europe. A free vote would also enable him to allow members of the Cabinet to follow personal convictions.

This leaves both parties' pledge of a referendum as the one insuperable obstacle to Britain joining the single currency. But experience suggests that if the Government makes a decision on a complex economic issue and then wins the backing of prominent business interests, the voters can easily be swayed. Would people really reject in a referendum a policy that would lower their mortgage rates overnight by two or three percentage points? Would they heed the sceptical minority of economists who warned that such a monetary union would lead to higher inflation and a balance of payments crisis? Wouldn't they believe instead the far larger number of businessmen and economic optimists who would argue that inflation and trade problems were now impossible, since Britain's money would be in the capable hands of a surrogate Bundesbank?

BUSINESS LETTERS

Britain needs pension compulsion and affordable second-tier schemes

From the Chairman, Unity Trust Bank

Sir, It is hard to disagree with Graham Searjeant's analysis (April 10) of Britain's acute pensions problem. However, market forces will not deliver the increased provision needed. While it is obvious that pensions, like insurance, need to be sold, we have seen the danger of mis-selling. Some form of political leadership — and fresh political thinking — is what we really require to tackle falling living standards in retirement.

Only compulsion will work. The Conservative proposals do recognise this, but only in the long term, and they ignore the crisis which will face our ageing population as it peaks in around 2030.

Likewise, Labour thinkers have highlighted the need for compulsion, but the party has not followed their lead. We can be encouraged

by the fact that Labour intends to work in "partnerships" with employers' organisations, trade unions and the private sector to introduce a second-tier "stakeholder" pension. But these proposals do not add up, given that Labour says that it will maintain the present level of contributions.

The UK has accumulated a stock of private pensions assets totalling over 70 per cent of GDP. The challenge is to enable everyone to participate in the success story.

Without compulsion and the development of affordable second-tier pensions for all, many lower-paid people will continue to face an uncertain future as they will not earn sufficient income to contribute to private schemes at market rates.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS LANDAU,
Unity Trust Bank,
130 Minories, EC3.

New law is harming retirement provision

From Mr R. Waddingham

Sir, The "anti-Maxwell" pensions legislation, the Pensions Act 1995, came into effect on April 6. Unfortunately, it has little to do with encouraging company pension schemes. This further pension regulation has had the opposite effect.

The Government boasts of the solid pension provision in this country. Pension funds here exceed £650 billion — more than the rest of Europe put together. Ironically, politicians have not recognised that this position is threatened by their interventionist legislation. As a consulting actuary, I have never been busier than now — but unfortunately on the wrong sort of work. It is sad to see employers cutting back on pension provision.

The Government has yet to appreciate the damage done

by recent "reforms". The rot began when employees were given the right to opt out of good company pension schemes.

The Government misunderstood the effect of the introduction of personal pensions (in spite of advice at the time), and refuses to accept blame for the losses that followed. The Pensions Act 1995 makes it harder and more expensive to run good schemes. Even if politicians now realise the damage done by recent legislation, it will be a huge task to persuade new employers to provide good pension provision for employees.

Yours faithfully,
RAJ WADDINGHAM,
Barnett Waddingham
(Consulting Actuaries),
Chalfont Hall,
Chalfont St Peter,
Buckinghamshire.

Millions will be victims of a windfall tax

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky (April 15) suggests that the real victims of the windfall tax will be the speculators who bought utility shares during the period of takeover and dividend fever earlier this decade. Whilst I would not wish to comment on whether or not the windfall tax is a sensible proposal, I believe Mr Kaletsky's comments are disingenuous.

This firm's published figures estimate that a £5 billion windfall tax would permanently reduce the value of the utility shares by a one-off 5 per cent. In other words, the utility shares concerned would be worth around 5 per cent less than they would have been if the windfall tax had never been

invented. What this means in practice is that the five million or so individual owners of shares in utilities and the 17 million or so members of pension funds who have invested in utility shares will take a one-off "hit" of 5 per cent on part of their wealth. Up to half the electorate will be affected.

The windfall tax may or may not be a justifiable way of raising £5 billion to tackle long-term unemployment in the UK, but it is disingenuous to suggest that it has only a limited number of victims.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell House,
10-12 Russell Square, WCI.

Morag Preston on an even longer smoking campaign

Tobacco duo plots 241 challenge

B J Cunningham and Sten Bertelsen, the *en-fans* terribles of the tobacco industry, are already plotting their next move.

Yesterday's European Court ruling against their Enlightened Tobacco Company (ETC), which has left them facing a £700,000 bill for costs, has been quickly shrugged off. Their next assault on Customs & Excise will be the launch of a new long cigarette cutely called the 241.

Unlike the average cigarette, the filter is in the middle so that, snapped in half, it can be shared. The selling point is that at 100mm in length they are a quarter longer than standard-sized cigarettes. In theory, smokers will pay no more tax than they would for a packet of 20 standard cigarettes, yet end up with 40. The cigarettes are available in The Netherlands but Customs & Excise have already opposed their United Kingdom launch.

ETC is the company behind the cut-price Death cigarettes.

"We stand for the man on the street, fighting for the rights of smokers," says Bertelsen, who was working in corporate finance on Wall Street when he joined Cunningham to set up the ETC.

At first they sold cigarettes outside pubs from the boot of a car. By 1993 the business had 35 shareholders and a budget of £1.2 million. Cunningham, 32, who formerly imported second-hand cars from California, says that it won't be long before fellow *fumeurs* have their first taste of his latest brand. "The first inch is all you need to give you a hit, the rest is social smoking," he says.

Alfonz Ravelli, the largest

independent manufacturer of tobacco in Europe, has a 25 per cent stake in ETC and is Cunningham's partner in the project. He made Death cigarettes, and retains the right to sell them in Germany and the Benelux countries. The 241 cigarettes have been on sale in The Netherlands for a year.

Although Cunningham plans to launch his in the UK have had the thumbs down from Customs & Excise, the bad boy of the cigarette world is making plans to contest it. He said: "Two units doesn't mean that it's two cigarettes. Even with an ordinary cigarette you might put it out... then pick it up later and start smoking it again."



Cunningham is also active in the music industry, managing two bands that are about to launch their first single — *Carpet Burn* by Salamanda, and *Blow by Libido*.

For his part, Bertelsen, 32, is looking to import Cuban cigars into the UK. His plan is to break Hunters & Frankau's monopoly of the market.

Bertelsen is married to the socialite PR, Susannah Constantine, and is the son of the Scandinavian fashion magnate, Peder Bertelsen. He is currently in business with his father, opening *haute couture* franchises for Alberta Ferretti and Strenesse in London. Set up seven months ago, he predicts that the company, called *Striber*, will achieve a £4 million turnover by the end of its first year.

That apart, Bertelsen is also fully occupied in his role as managing director of Enlightened Capital Company, which has recently bought a stake in a television station based in Berlin.

Whatever you think you can do on the Internet, you probably can — if you know where to start. But it's a very big 'if'!

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* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return).
† Ex dividend, ‡ Middle price. No significant data.
§ Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Ed

32 EQUITY PRICES

Gilts higher, equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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POP 1

The Charlatans show that world-weariness pays off, eventually, on *Tellin' Stories*



POP 2

... and the likely lads of Supergrass stake a claim to darker territory with *In it for the Money*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

... but the self-styled "queen of hip hop soul", Mary J. Blige, goes a bit glossy on her new album



POP 4

Whither Robbie? Caitlin Moran finds erstwhile Take That man enjoying a full and frank recovery

Self-confessed fakes turn in the real thing

POP CDs: Tragedy has not deflected the Charlatans from making a watershed album, says David Sinclair

THE CHARLATANS
Tellin' Stories
(Beggars Banquet BBQ 190 £12.99)

THE CHARLATANS are proof of the adage that it is not how fast you come out of the traps that counts, so much as your ability to reach the finish line. Playing the tortoise to such hare-like contemporaries as the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays is one thing. More to the point, the Charlatans have reached an age and a stage where all that hard-faced, world-weary posturing actually means something.

The making of *Tellin' Stories*, their fifth album, was marred by the death of keyboard player Rob Collins, who had already co-written and played on most of the songs before his fatal car accident. Cynics will say that his absence lends a poignant cachet to the project, and so it does. But irrespective of such circumstances, there is a substance to many of these songs that wasn't there before.

With their scuffed harmony vocals, loose, shuffling beats and bluesy touches of harmonica and slide guitar, *With No Shoes and North Country* Boy are typical of the warm, rootsy tunes that predominate. *You're a Big Girl Now* gives an acoustic spin to the formula, with Mark Collins playing some marvellous riffs that recall the bucolic touch of Ron Wood during his heyday in the Faces. And there is a brilliant instrumental track called *Area 51*, a sort of slovenly, roots-rock take on the Chemical Brothers.

But whether traversing old or new grooves, *Tellin' Stories* has the kind of touch that simply cannot be acquired off the peg. This is an album with the real rock'n'roll feel.

SUPERGRASS
In it for the Money
(Parlophone 8 55228 £13.99)
WITH its sarcastic title and humorously seedy cover photograph of the group dressed

as a bunch of down-and-out buskers, *In it for the Money* is a clear statement of intent by Supergrass. Call them young, carefree kids with clean teeth and a cheeky pop tune in their hearts at your peril. This is an ambitious rock album with fire in its belly and various shades of meaning, some of them surprisingly dark.

Rather like the Who in their glory days, Supergrass have developed an uncanny knack of moulding high-energy, three-chord rock'n'roll into the most amazing shapes, thanks to a mixture of great tunes, complex vocal harmonies, an absurdist sense of humour and Danny Goffey's frenetic drumming style.

Thus the title track kicks off proceedings with a quick burst of comic/epic drama before being brutally chopped off in mid-flow to make way for *Richard III*, a belter of the first order. From there the album is a roller-coaster ride of numbers that range from acoustic love songs such as *Late in the Day* and *It's Not Me* to propulsive rockers including *Sun Hits The Sky*, *Cheapskate* and *Tonight*.

But it derives its unique flavour from the many imaginative diversions along the way — numbers such as *G-Song*, with its howling, Neil Young-style guitar solo; last year's hit *Going Out*, with its wall of organ and brass; and *Sometimes I Make You Sad*, a bizarre closing track enlivened by a jokey, human-beatbox, compah rhythm track.

There is no obvious summer hit such as *Alright*, but this album is nothing less than a tour de force by a bunch of likely lads who have just staked their claim as one of the premier British acts of the decade.

The arrangements are simple, and the lyrics direct: "I haven't been a good friend/For a long long time," he sings with disarming candour on *Behind the Smile*. With songs like these we can forgive him.

MARY J. BLIGE
Share My World
(MCA MCD 11619 £13.49)

HER transformation from teenage backing singer to "queen of hip hop soul" (who are the other contenders for this strange title?) seemed to happen overnight. Now 25, and having severed all links with producer Puffy Combs, the man who masterminded her two previous multimillion-selling albums, it is a more mature Mary J. Blige who steps out with a small army of the most fashionable names in R&B, including R. Kelly, Jam & Lewis, D'Angelo and the ubiquitous Babyface.

Recorded in a variety of studios, *Share My World* has a glossier but less cohesive feel than its predecessors. Blige's voice works like a dream, especially on her offbeat reworking of the Stylistics' hit, *You are Everything*, and when set against the hard mechanical beats of *Round and Round*. But she lacks the immediately recognisable vocal signature of previous soul queens, and some of the material sounds a bit tired.

MATTHEW SWEET

Blue Sky on Mars
(Zoo/RCA 61422 3130 £15.49)

SOMETHING of a musical sponge, Matthew Sweet has made a career out of absorbing and re-designing what has been going on around him rather than generating anything startlingly original.

That said, he does have a master craftsman's way with a tune, and there are some wonderful moments on *Blue Sky on Mars*, an album which finds him going through a Bob Mould-style post-grunge phase, with secondary references ranging from R.E.M. to Smashing Pumpkins.

The arrangements are simple, and the lyrics direct: "I haven't been a good friend/For a long long time," he sings with disarming candour on *Behind the Smile*. With songs like these we can forgive him.



Last year Rob Collins, the Charlatans' keyboard player, died in a car accident. Now the remaining four have released a fitting memorial, *Tellin' Stories*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (2) *Dig Your Own Hole*..... Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
- (1) *Spice*..... Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (3) *Ultra*..... Depêche Mode (Mute)
- (4) *Mother Nature Calls*..... Cast (Polydor)
- (5) *10*..... Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
- (6) *White on Blonde*..... Texas (Mercury)
- (7) *Tragic Kingdom*..... No Doubt (Interscope)
- (8) *Lee's Stansfield*..... Lee Stansfield (Arista)
- (9) *Blur*..... Blur (Food)
- (10) *Blue is the Colour*..... Beautiful South (Gut Discs)

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© Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

The devil in the teen angel

Basically, Robbie Williams should not have been in Take That. He was much better suited to Bad Boys Inc

If the midweek statistics are right, then Robbie Williams' single *Old Before I Die* will go straight in at No1 this weekend, making him the most successful former member of Take That. He's also the most unlikely former member of Take That. For a man who once had a doll made of him, and was expected to conduct his private life as if he actually were one, Williams is madly earthy and alive. Swearing, smoking, drinking, kicking out one liners... the wonder is that he managed to last five years in a band where a can of full-sugar Coke was a special treat and saying nothing controversial or opinionated was essential.

"Of course I drank and took drugs and had sex while I was in Take That," Williams says. "I was doing all that stuff before I joined the band, so I wasn't going to stop. But it's so nice having to pretend you're not doing all these things. Interviewers ask you what you did last night, and you have to say: 'Oh, me and the boys stayed in and watched a movie and did each other's hair', when what you really want to say is: 'I had the maddest night ever last night: I was the Zorro of beer and good times.'"

"Of course, there weren't that many occasions where that happened when I was in the band. But after I left the band..." He grins. His *Lost Weekend*, which totalled a year, has been well documented in the press. But the boozy celebrity nights out and parties escalated into reports of drink and drug addiction, a tearful heart-to-heart with Elton John, and a spell in rehab.

"That was all complete and utter rubbish," Williams howls, rolling his eyes. "At the time of the reports that I was battling with addiction I was sitting in my nan's house, having a cup of tea. I've done a few drugs, and I had some good times on them, then I

had some bad times on them, and then I stopped. But I never needed them, which is what I believe the dictionary would say 'addiction' means."

"And besides, I was just making up for those [puts on a psychiatrist-type voice] lost teenage years. But I reckon I'm over all that now. I'm moving to Ireland. I'm going to get a farm and feed the pigs. I'm going to lean on my gate, watching the world pass by."

Williams has a good understanding of how ridiculous yet enjoyable it is being famous: he tells a story of turning up for a photo-shoot, still drunk from the night before, with a joint in one hand and a bottle of champagne in the other, and swathed in a fake-fur coat. His life is almost a parody of what a boy-band star turned guitar-slinging Britpop hero would do; and Williams plays up to it.

"Robbie Williams' is a persona I can take on and off, it's my working name," he says. "All my friends call me 'Bob' or 'Rob'. Simple things like that can make a difference. I'm still learning how much of myself I can give away without hurting myself. And the press don't help with all those digs at my weight. I'm aware of it, but it's booze-flab, not pie-flab, and I'm losing it. I'm getting my confidence back."

"I went down to this club called the Regency Rooms a couple of weeks ago," he beams, flinging himself around on the sofa like a 12-year-old just home from school. "It's all easy listening, run by this fella called Lenny Beige who has the most amazing wig. I decided I was going to make my comeback there. I got up on stage and sang *Every Time We Say Goodbye*, but I put a couple of gags in it too. I got a standing ovation. "It's so good to play to an audience who've all got public hair! And being up on stage again felt so stinky."

Old Before I Die is out now on Chrysalis



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Phobia caused incompetence

In re M B (Caesarian section)
Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss,
Lord Justice Saville and Lord
Justice Ward
[Judgment March 26]

A woman who needed and desired to have a Caesarian section but whose fear of needles caused her to refuse to have the anaesthetic and undergo the operation was, at the moment of panic, suffering from a mental impairment which made her temporarily incompetent and, as the Caesarian section was in her best interests, it was appropriate for the court to order that it would be lawful for doctors to operate on her without her consent.

The Court of Appeal so held in giving reasons for its decision on February 19 an appeal by the woman against a decision of Mr Justice Hallett to grant a declaration that it would be lawful for the operation to take place.

Mr Robert Francis, QC, for the woman; Mr John Grace, QC, for the hospital; Mr Michael Hinchliffe as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, giving the judgment of the court, said that in general it was a criminal and tortious assault to perform physically invasive medical treatment without the patient's consent. The invasion might be, without the patient's consent.

A mentally competent patient had an absolute right to refuse consent to medical treatment for any reason, rational or irrational, or for no reason at all even where the decision might lead to his or her death.

Medical treatment could be undertaken in an emergency even if, through lack of capacity, no consent had been competently given, provided the treatment was a necessity and did no more than was reasonably required in the best interests of the patient.

All the recent decisions in Caesarian section cases arose in circumstances of urgency or extreme urgency. The evidence was

in general limited in scope and the mother was not always represented as a party. With one exception the court had decided in all the cases that the mother did not have the capacity to make the decision.

In such extremely worrying situations it was important to keep in mind the basic principles laid down in the authorities and the court should approach the crucial question of competence bearing the following considerations in mind:

1 Every person was presumed to have the capacity to consent to or to refuse medical treatment unless and until that presumption was rebutted.

2 A competent woman who had the capacity to decide might, for religious or other reasons whether rational or irrational or for no reason at all, choose not to have medical intervention even though the consequences might be the death or serious handicap of the child she bore or her own death.

In that event the court did not have jurisdiction to declare medical intervention lawful and the question of her own best interests objectively considered, did not arise.

3 Irrationally connoted a decision which was so outrageous in its defiance of logic or of accepted moral standards that no sensible person who had applied his mind to the question to be decided could have arrived at it.

Although it might be thought that irrationality sat uneasily with competence to decide, panic, in that context, was not irrationality in itself but a state of mind which rendered the person unable to make a decision.

4 A person lacked capacity if some impairment or disturbance of mental functioning rendered the person unable to make a decision.

The effect was that there would be situations in which the child might die or be seriously handicapped because the mother said "No" and the obstetrician was not able to take the necessary steps to avoid the death or handicap.

The mother might indeed later regret the outcome but the alternative would be an unwarranted invasion of the right of the woman to make the decision.

The only situation in which it was lawful for doctors to intervene was if it was believed that the adult patient lacked the capacity to decide.

On the present state of the English law the submission that the court should consider and weigh in the balance the rights of the unborn child were untenable.

The only support in Lord Donaldson's observation in *In re T (An Adult)* (Consent to medical treatment) [1993] Fam 95 could not stand against the weight of earlier decisions which were far

more persuasive as to the present state of the law and which were applicable by analogy to the present case: see *Paton v British Pregnancy Advisory Service Trustees* [1979] QB 276, C v S [1988] QB 139 and *In re F (Infant)* [1988] Fam 122.

The focus up to the moment of birth did not have any separate interests capable of being taken into account when a court had to consider an application for a declaration in respect of a Caesarian section operation. The court did not have the jurisdiction to declare that such medical intervention was lawful to protect the interests of the unborn child even at the point of birth.

It might be helpful to make some comments on the practice to be followed when the medical profession felt it necessary to seek declarations from the courts:

1 The court was unlikely to entertain an application for a declaration unless the capacity of the patient to consent to or refuse the medical intervention was in issue.

2 For the time being at least the doctors ought to seek a ruling from the High Court on the issue of competence.

3 There is a charge should identify a potential problem as early as possible so that both the hospital and the patient could obtain legal advice.

4 It was highly desirable that in any case which was not an emergency steps should be taken to bring it before the court before it became an emergency. That would remove the extra pressure from the parties and the court and enable proper instructions to be taken, particularly from the patient and where possible give the opportunity for the court to hear oral evidence.

5 The hearing should be inter partes.

6 The mother should be represented in all cases unless, exceptionally, she did not wish to be. If she was unconscious she should have a guardian ad litem.

7 The Official Solicitor should be notified of all applications to the High Court.

8 There should in general be no evidence, preferred or not, unless necessary for the purpose of the competence of the patient if competence was in issue.

9 Where time permitted, the person identified to give the evidence as to capacity to consent to or refuse treatment should be made aware of the observations in this judgment.

10 In order to be in a position to assess a patient's best interests the judge should be provided, where possible and if time allowed, with information about the circumstances of and relevant background material about the patient.

Solicitors: Le Brasseur J. Tickle; Hemmings; Official Solicitor.

Power to compel child witness

In re P (a Minor) (Witness)

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Wilson
[Judgment March 25]

A judge had a discretion whether to issue a witness summons against a child and could decline to issue a witness summons against a child if the child's welfare was of great relevance, although it was not a question related to the child's upbringing.

In principle the older the child the more likely the application would succeed. It was to be expected, however, that in most cases involving a child, whether or not a family member, aged 12 or younger the court would favour the absence of oral evidence in the present hearing, that in that regard the judge had a discretion: see *R v B County Council, Ex parte P* [1991] 1 WLR 221, 227G-H.

In care proceedings a stipendiary magistrate had declined to authorise issue of a witness summons against a girl aged 17 who had made allegation of sexual abuse that were put in evidence.

Of the two principles enunciated, the appellants questioned the applicability of the second, but accepted the first, namely that the judge could decline to issue the summons against N if she considered that it was oppressive. In his judgment the judge was wrong to decline to issue the summons.

The appellants had applied for witness summonses against both S and N at the hearing. Before the judge the guardian ad litem had submitted that section 1(1) of the Children Act 1989 applied so as to make the welfare of the children paramount. There was a proposition to that effect in *Hersham*

miss *Miranda Allardice* for the mother and her partner; Miss Anne Jessup for the guardian ad litem; Mr Michael Kolanko for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that the starting point was paragraph 2 of the Rules (Admissibility of Hearsay Evidence) Order (SI 1993 No 621). Although not limited to evidence given by children, the order was formulated with such evidence in mind: see *In re C and Others (Minors) (Hearsay evidence: Contempt proceed-*

ings) [1993] 4 All ER 690.

The effect of the order was that the local authority was entitled to adduce in evidence written and videotaped records of N's interview and yet to decline to call her to give oral evidence. Since that evidence was admissible and clearly relevant there was no room for the court to decline to accept that evidence unless the local authority were to call N.

The only way the proposed appellants could procure N's attendance before the court was to issue a witness summons under Order 20, rule 12 of the County Court Rules.

At the interlocutory hearing on September 26, 1996 the judge permitted the issue of such a summons and they proceeded, then as in the present hearing, that in that regard the judge had a discretion: see *R v B County Council, Ex parte P* [1991] 1 WLR 221, 227G-H.

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It was unusual for a child complainant of sexual abuse to give oral evidence in proceedings under the 1989 Act: it had never happened in his Lordship's court. Nor had his Lordship ever been asked to order the attendance of a child complainant.

Clearly when a court was asked to make such an order, it must approach the application on its merits without preconceptions. In principle the older the child, the more arguable would be the application.

Nevertheless courts were increasingly aware of the further grave damage which could be done to a child who had been sexually abused or indeed a child who had not been sexually abused, and such a child might well have been damaged, if she was subjected to the trauma of questioning by a stranger whose task was to attack her truthfulness in a so-called sensitive area.

His Lordship would expect that in most cases where the child, whether or not a family member, was of N's age or younger the court would favour the absence of oral evidence even though the complainant was the weaker, often perhaps the fatal weakness, of the evidence against the adult.

There was no reasonable prospect of success in the proposed appeal and therefore leave would be refused.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY agreed. **Solicitors:** Cousins Combe & Musson, Weymouth and Pennington & Ridge, Weymouth; Official Solicitor: Mr David Jenkins, Dorchester.

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LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY agreed. **Solicitors:** Cousins Combe & Musson, Weymouth and Pennington & Ridge, Weymouth; Official Solicitor: Mr David Jenkins, Dorchester.

The judge did not use the word "oppressive", but there was no

magical in a word and it sufficed that she would have weighed the factors which that word encompassed. His Lordship could not fault the way in which the judge decided.

It was unusual for a child complainant of sexual abuse to give oral evidence in proceedings under the 1989 Act: it had never happened in his Lordship's court. Nor had his Lordship ever been asked to order the attendance of a child complainant.

Clearly when a court was asked to make such an order, it must approach the application on its merits without preconceptions. In principle the older the child, the more arguable would be the application.

Nevertheless courts were increasingly aware of the further grave damage which could be done to a child who had been sexually abused or indeed a child who had not been sexually abused, and such a child might well have been damaged, if she was subjected to the trauma of questioning by a stranger whose task was to attack her truthfulness in a so-called sensitive area.

His Lordship would expect that in most cases where the child, whether or not a family member, was of N's age or younger the court would favour the absence of oral evidence even though the complainant was the weaker, often perhaps the fatal weakness, of the evidence against the adult.

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Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Nick Wikeley, Dean of the Faculty of Law, telephone (01703) 593416, or email n.wikeley@soham.ac.uk

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, telephone (01703) 594048, email j.c3@soham.ac.uk or minicom (01703) 593595, to whom a full curriculum vitae (10 copies from UK applicants, one from overseas) should be sent together with the names and addresses of three referees by 23 May 1997. Please quote reference number P447.

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EDUCATION

You select a school, but will it select your child?

David Charter on a boy who lost out because of changes in the school places system

Sonia Freeman moved house when her son Oliver was three months old to live in the catchment area of the secondary school of her choice.

Families living in Bramerton Road, Beckenham, automatically sent their sons to the successful Langley Park School for Boys in the South London borough of Bromley.

Ten years on, however, Oliver found himself turned away. His mother blames the school's move towards partial selection (Oliver did not pass the test) and the clamour for places by children from outside the borough. The school points to the effective disappearance of catchment areas and the high number of applications from siblings this year.

All these reasons, and more, influence the complex challenge of finding a secondary school. The three main political parties have very different views on school admissions but are all grappling with a key problem — that popular schools cannot infinitely expand.

Conservative-controlled Bromley is seen as one version of a blueprint for the nation's education service. Schools in this corner of southeast London have rushed to take up successive government initiatives and become grant-maintained, specialist and, latterly, partially selective.

The Conservative manifesto promises every school more power, with the ultimate aim of full autonomy. There will also be greater freedom to select more pupils.

All but one of Bromley's 17 secondary schools have already opted out of local authority control. Many of these grant-maintained schools joined the specialist schools programme by admitting 10 per cent of pupils on aptitude for languages, arts, sport or technology. Then Hayes School won government approval to select 25 per cent of pupils on academic ability. This prompted all those schools not already testing prospective pupils to select 15 per cent, the maximum allowed without government approval.

Some Bromley parents say that this selection has added another hurdle to entry to their neighbourhood schools, which were already swamped with applications from outside the borough after a High Court ruling in 1990, known as the Greenwich Judgment, said

that council borders should not hinder access to schools. More than 600 Bromley children have yet to secure a place for September and the number of appeals from parents rises every year.

Mrs Freeman believes that Langley Park acted against local parents' interests by moving to 15 per cent selection. She says: "I always assumed that he would automatically get a place. If someone had said two years ago he could not possibly get a place, we would have moved. It should not be like this. The Government encouraged grant-maintained schools and it cannot control them. The schools are acting for their own prestige rather than for the good of the community."

The school responds that its selective admissions will bring in just three boys from outside Bromley.

Roger Sheffield, the headmaster, explains that his school changed both in response to demand and to keep up with its neighbours.

'It is a bit like the domino theory. If one goes, they all go'

"Bromley," he says, "is an area where there is a demand for selection. If other schools in the borough have selection, I am left with little choice because of the parental view that anything with the word selection attached to it is better. It is a bit like the domino theory. If one goes, they all go."

He said the real problems started with the Greenwich Judgment, a ruling the Liberal Democrats have pledged to overturn. The Lib Dems also want grant-maintained schools to come back under the control of "light-touch" local authorities, which would decide whether the schools can keep their admissions policies.

Labour does not plan to challenge the Greenwich Judgment, saying it was felt to be a commonsense ruling. Under Labour, all grant-maintained schools would become foundation schools, with a portion of their budget returned to the local authority. Every foundation school would have to agree its admissions policy with the authority, and an ombudsman would settle disputes.

Full grammar schools would keep their status, unless a majority of parents from local primary schools voted to change them. The votes would probably need a petition from 20 per cent of parents to be called.

Such was the outcry in



Missing out: Oliver and his mother, Sonia, who blames the school's move to partial selection

Bromley over Hayes School's move to 25 per cent selection, that it made Sir John Hunt, the area's Tory MP, "very angry". Asked by his local paper whether people should vote Labour, he said: "That is a decision they must make for themselves. I wouldn't want to influence them in any way."

Sir John has just retired. By coincidence, the Tory candidate for the new seat of Bromley and Chislehurst is Eric Forth, a Minister for Education since 1992.

Mr Forth robustly defends the changes to schools on his new patch. Parents, he says, like selection and the greater freedom they have to apply to different schools. "How can you have a system where everyone gets their first choice?" he adds. "I have never

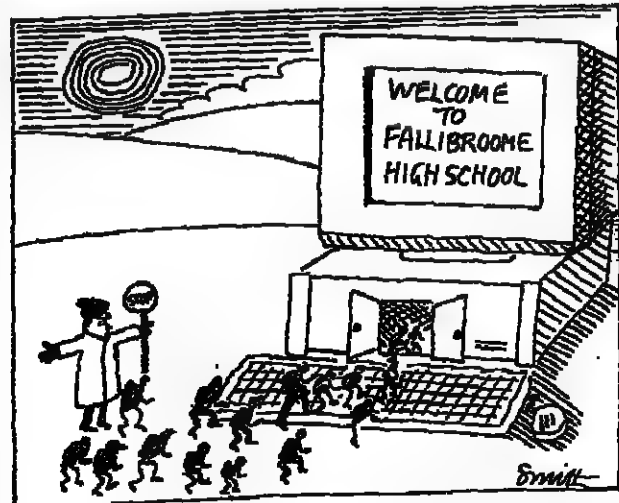
understood this line of argument. "If you give the opportunity to express a preference, which is what the statute says, nationally 90 per cent happily obtain their first preference."

The Conservatives had no plans to overturn the Greenwich Judgment because that would be "completely incompatible with the thrust of grant-maintained status". Nor did he see as a problem the extra effort parents now have to make to understand each school's admissions policy.

"I don't think it is a weakness to expect parents to make an effort," he says. "It is a strength. We have always laid a great deal of importance on the ability of parents to take an active interest in their children's education."

Phil Revell reports on a ground-breaking Internet boost for education

Softly, softly school spins a web for parents and students



terial on the Web, but Mr Burgess says the Fallbroome service has solved this. "It was a concern, children are inquisitive, but the school has blocked all the unsavoury areas."

Using WebTrack software, the school can control access to the site in a way a commercial provider might find difficult. During lessons, for example, the school blocks access to all games sites, an

option that would not be open to many other providers. The software also allows the school to monitor access. If parents are concerned about their children's Internet usage, a record exists of all the sites visited.

Fallbroome High became a technology college in 1995 and the associated funding allowed the grant-maintained school to invest heavily in information technology. Nick

Aymes, an IT co-ordinator, says the Internet is an important learning resource as well as a way of cementing links with parents. Plans include offering Web pages to local companies wanting to market their products and IT classes for adults featuring Internet skills.

As a subscriber, Mr Burgess pays the school £14 a month, which is comparable to fees charged by commercial providers. The family uses the service about three hours a week and telephone charges are significant.

AN INITIATIVE by the cable companies could change all that. The companies are offering schools fixed-rate unlimited access. For less than £10 a week, a school can lease a dedicated telephone line. Fallbroome is investigating the possibilities of cable. The school's leased line costs £8,500 a year.

Parents would also welcome the possibilities of cable. Local phone calls between cable subscribers are free and Mr Burgess sees that as "an even bigger advantage".

In the near future it will be possible for Mr Burgess to access his children's records at the school, to get test results or to check their general progress. Passwords would protect the information from unauthorised access. Mr Aymes says: "The technology simply makes it easier to keep parents in contact with their children's schooling."

Hilda Brown on an historic step at Oxford

Why St Hilda's needs some men

The last single-sex college in Oxford is poised for an historic step. However, the proposed admittance of male academics as full members of St Hilda's College is not so alarming or radical as supporters of single-sex education might suppose.

Firmly pledged to remaining in the unique position of admitting only women as undergraduates, the college is still dedicated to the education of women. The planned move is at senior level only, opening the fellowship to men and women.

As a result of its single-sex status, St Hilda's is left with only four fellows in science. The normal number would be about ten. It has none in key areas of the physical sciences, such as chemistry, where it once had two, and engineering.

To maintain a respectable balance between arts and science subjects, it has been forced to make short-term arrangements, in many cases appointing men as tutors.

The college now has several options. It can continue to make do. It can decide to discontinue offering these subjects, or it can resolve to participate fully in the university's normal joint appointments procedures, thereby gaining access to tenured posts associated with fellowships.

The latter option would provide its undergraduates with the range, continuity and quality of teaching taken for granted in other Oxford colleges, and bring financial benefit from the substantial funding that accompanies such posts.

Such a move will liberate the college from the complex, frustrating and sometimes humiliating manoeuvres with which it has had to grapple since the full implications of equal opportunities legislation hit Oxford in 1992, turning the joint appointments system into a lottery for St Hilda's. University appointments have to be open to both sexes, and posts allocated to St Hilda's have not yielded a single appointee. Either men were appointed or the successful women opted to take the appointment at another (mixed) college.

As a college with only 100 years of history, St Hilda's, though poor by the standards of very rich colleges, is not at the bottom of Oxford's "poverty league".

Over the past ten years, when it started to worry about the declining prospects of obtaining joint appointments in the natural sciences, the college raised funding for three key posts, thus effectively subsidising university science depart-

ments. This ensured that female academics were appointed. But such a policy cannot be regarded as a practical solution or a desirable long-term aim.

To bring the fellowship up to full strength in the sciences would require at least six appointments at the present going rate of about £1 million a post. But there is a more important point of principle at stake.

To "privatise" all its science teaching, St Hilda's would effectively be withdrawing from full participation in the university of which it is a constituent part. It would also, arguably, be going against the grain of its own history. The early struggles of women at Oxford were directed towards recognition as full members of the university, and recognition meant partici-

pation in the larger body that is the university. These women were not self-consciously trying to preserve their "distinctive identity", which can be just another form of ghetto.

Landmarks on the way to recognition included the award of degrees after the First World War, and the achievement of collegiate status in the late 1950s. With the latter came the benefits of participating in the joint appointments system.

With the growth of science and the final phasing out of the pre-war college laboratories, the university set up lecturerships in the science departments. Meanwhile, arts subjects were served by other joint appointments, known as CUF (Common University Fund) lecturerships. Women fellows became eligible for such appointments in the late 1950s.

A period of comparative prosperity, expansion and high academic achievement for the women's colleges followed and it has been described by historians as a golden age.

This came to an end in the 1970s with the move towards co-residential colleges. In bowing to necessity, the St Hilda's fellowship does not see its position in a tragic light, but rather as an opportunity to protect its right to participation, which has long been the college's prime aim.

The college's unique identity will be preserved by the admission of male fellows, and its academic credibility strengthened; we can have confidence in the future. I am sure there will be relief among the friends of the college and even some quiet rejoicing.

● The author is the senior tutor at St Hilda's College, Oxford.

To privatise science teaching would be to declare UDI

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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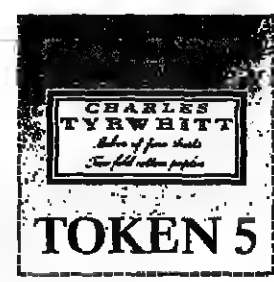
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To apply collect four (of six) differently numbered tokens from The Times this week and send them with the order form appearing again tomorrow. The form requires you to enter the code for each shirt you require. P&P is free within the British Isles. The cost within Europe is £5, and £10 internationally. The offer is valid for orders received by Monday May 5, 1997.



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SPWNAF Prince of Wales Navy/Pink

SPLAPR Prince of Wales Pink **SPLAPR** White Poplin **SPLAPR** Pink Poplin **SPLAPR** Cream Poplin **SPLAPR** Apricot Poplin **SPLAPR** Cornflower Poplin

SCINAV City Navy Narrow blue stripe on white background **SCINAV** City Yellow Narrow blue stripe on yellow background **SHDBLU** Houndstooth Blue very narrow blue stripes **STYRED** Tyrwhitt Red Red stripe with blue border **STYRED** Tyrwhitt Navy Deep purple stripe with red border

STYRED Tyrwhitt Green Green stripe with red border

OXFORD Oxford broadcloth is famous for its softness, flexibility and durability. It is exceptionally comfortable and can be worn as casual or formal wear. **SOXSKY** Oxford Sky

PINPOINT Combines the qualities of two-fold cotton poplin with Oxford broadcloth, the lustre and superfine texture of poplin with the comfort and durability of Oxford. The finish of this pinpoint is exceptional, and creates a wilderness of its own.

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END-ON-END A term invented by the French (fin-à-fin). A fabric in which the white thread is interwoven with a coloured thread to produce a subtle textured effect. It retains the coolness and softness of plain two-fold poplin. **SHDBLU** End-on-End Blue

CHANGING TIMES

MARATHON 41

Perry 5:14:27: M
 Lynes 5:14:28: B
 Fortes Mayer
 5:14:33: A

A. Henry
14:43; J. Buege
14:43; S. 14:43; M
Liburg 5:14:33;
33; J. Thomas
14:43; H. Pol
5:14:34; F
Grat 5:14:36;
14:37; S.
D. Norman
14:40; J. Hamie
by 5:14:41; S.
17; S. Price
Adlum 5:14:44;
S. C. Hitt
on 5:14:45; F
14:45; B. Moser
14:45; S. Orborne
cl 5:14:47;
C. Dawson
cl 5:14:48; W
Francis 5:14:48;
Boyle 5:14:48; J
C. G. Mearns
wards 5:14:49;
Boyle 5:14:50; K
A. Spielman
on 5:14:50; M
Chambers
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ne 5:14:50; M
4:50; K. Moore
on 5:14:50; J
3; B. Freyling
oyer 5:14:50; J
K. Smith
14:50; C. Carr
r 5:14:51; W
E. Alkewoods
20 5:14:53; N
P. Cooper
15:02; R. Bond
5:09; A. Halber
15:11; C.
15:11; M.
on 5:15:15; K
C. Mann
on 5:15:16; C.
Stuckmann
15:18; P. Stump
rt 5:15:19; J
15:20; S.
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7; D. Schwarz
5:15:28; A
9; F. Sumpson

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 R Russell
 Henry S:16:24; M
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 Long S:16:33;
 Betty S:16:37;
 J Wilkinson
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 17:46: C Arner
 7:46: B Heath
 S 17:47: M
 e 51749: L
 Mann 17:51:
 Buckley 17:54:
 Jones 17:54:
 Price 17:55
 17:55: N Carr
 17:56: O Child
 S 17:59: N
 es 18:02: J
 S Langridge
 ge 51803: N
 Jones 18:05:
 T Whyman
 T 18:07: L
 A. Brooker
 t 18:09: M
 Russell 18:10:
 G Andrews
 18:11: J Harris
 18:13: M Turner

TENNIS: WOMEN PLAYERS FAIL TO GAIN PARITY WITH MEN DESPITE INCREASE IN PRIZE-MONEY

Wimbledon rejects equal pay claims

By JOHN GOODBODY

WIMBLEDON has, once again, refused to give equal prize-money to men and women, although the total cash awards for the 1997 championships have risen by 6.5 per cent compared with last year to a record £6,884,952.

The announcement by the All England Club yesterday disappointed the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), which has been lobbying for equal pay at Wimbledon for many years. There will be a disparity of £411,130 between the two prize funds this year.

The WTA stated yesterday: "There is a worldwide boom in women's tennis because of increased depth in fields and the rise of our young stars. In each of the last four years, the women's final has been the most dramatic of all the matches during the fortnight, while in each of the last six years, the women have consistently delivered more seeded players through to the quarter-finals."

The WTA has repeatedly argued that the same amount of money should be paid to both sexes from the quarter-finals onwards. Of the grand slam events, the US Open has had equal prize-money for the men and women winners since 1973, while the Australian Open has usually followed the same policy in recent years.

However, John Curry, the chairman of the All England Club, defended Wimbledon's policy. "We decided there was no good reason to change where we are," he said. "It is still the public's view that it prefers men's matches to women's. Tickets for men's matches are still in much higher demand and we have also looked at the television viewing figures."

This year the men's singles champion will receive



The new 11,000 capacity No 1 Court has a similar design to Centre Court and will allow more people to obtain tickets through the public ballot

£415,000 and the women's will get £373,500, increases of 5.7 per cent on the figures from last year. The women's singles final last year, between Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, was watched by 6.9 million television viewers in Britain, while 9.8 million saw the men's final, between Richard Krajicek and MaliVai Washington.

This is duplicated in most of

the 167 countries that screened the championships and where viewing figures are available. Curry also said that he spoke daily to spectators at the championships and had found that the No 1 attraction was Andre Agassi and the next most popular player was Goran Ivanisevic.

The new No 1 Court, with an increased capacity of 11,000, will be officially

opened on June 23, the first day of the championships. It is remarkably similar to Centre Court and the extra capacity has largely been allocated to the public ballot. The total capacity for all the courts at Wimbledon is now 32,000.

The No 1 Court is part of a massive rebuilding plan for the site that includes a new centre on the site of the old

No 1 Court that will house facilities for the players and the media, and is due to be open for 2000.

The All England Club wants to maintain its status in tennis and its ability to generate more profit than any other annual international sports event staged in Britain. The number of people applying for tickets through the public ballot continues to increase

annually, with 5 per cent more people making applications.

The organisers confirmed that there would be no changes in the softness of the balls and are content that the big-serving strategy of the leading men will not spoil the championships. Changes in the pressure of the balls at the Australian Open earlier this year were criticised by players of both sexes.

SPORTS LETTERS

Challenges of the marathon

From Mr Michael Davies
Sir, Male swimmers reckon to make a significant reduction in drag through the water by removal of body hair, thus gaining vital milliseconds. Liz McColgan would surely not have lost the London Marathon by a mere second if she had not been supporting a near-vertical bobbing hair-style, whose inertia effect through the air over 26 miles would have been considerable.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL DAVIES,
The Forest,
Benenden,
Cranbrook, Kent.

From Mr Ben Goss
Sir, As I returned to teach, hobbling slightly from carrying my 17 stone around the London Marathon, I needed to look no further than the spirit and qualities shown by all

involved in this magnificent event for renewed inspiration. The organisers, the police, the paramedics, the supporters and, above all, the runners showed in abundance the spirit of goodness that pervades so much of our society. The qualities of professionalism in its truest form, of determination, compassion, harmony, support for fellow beings, camaraderie and the joy of living were in great abundance.

All wonderful illustrations as I face a new term, the general election and the challenge of life. What other challenges show this spirit of goodness?

Yours faithfully,
B. C. GOSS,
Director of Services,
Gordonstoun School,
Elgin, Moray.

Other man's goal

From Mrs Patsy McIntyre
Sir, Your listing "Fallers at the last" — the sixth third division FA Cup semi-finalists (early editions, April 11) was incorrect. In 1937 Millwall played Sunderland at Leeds Road, Huddersfield, and, yes, the final score was 2-1 for Sunderland. However, my father, Patsy Gallacher, scored the winner, not tiny Hughie Gallacher —

he played for Newcastle United in the Twenties and early Thirties before joining Chelsea.

With the rivalry between Newcastle and Sunderland I need hardly indicate that a player from the Tyne taking the prize does not go down too well in Sunderland.

Yours sincerely,
PATSY MCINTYRE,
9 The Lawns, Whitburn,
Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Suitable case

From Professor J. M. Lynch
Sir, The BT Global Challenge yacht race is a superb test of the crew. Our university has a member on board the boat Commercial Union and we have been carrying out nutritional studies on the crew. Chay Blyth, the organiser, recently treated us to an excellent lecture on the race; it prompted my colleagues to consider the opportunities for scientific and medical investigation that human groups under such stressed but relatively controlled conditions provide.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. LYNCH,
School of Biological Sciences,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,
Surrey.

When he's 64

From Mr Magnus K. Moodie
Sir, Peter Schmeichel's remark (report, April 9) that the present Manchester United team would beat that of 1968 10-0 brings to mind a story about Bill Shankly, the former Liverpool manager.

When asked whether Tony Currie (the then wonder kid of English football) was "as good as your idol, Tom Finney", Shankly replied completely deadpan: "Aye, sure. But you have to bear in mind that Tom Finney is 64 now."

Yours sincerely,
MAGNUS K. MOODIE,
60 Columbia Road,
Edinburgh 4.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-752 5211.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
COCA-COLA CUP: First replay: Leicester City 1 Middlesbrough 0 (at 0-0 after 90 mins). FA CUP: First round: Everton 1 Liverpool 1; Newcastle United 3 Chelsea 1; Wimbledon 2 Leeds United 0.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Mansfield City 3 Derby County 1; Second division: Gillingham 1 Stockport County 0.
FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final replays: Exeter City 2 Gillingham 1; Exeter City 1 Gillingham 1.
VALUABLE CONFERENCE: First division: Luton Town 0 Reading 0; Second division: Reading 0 Luton Town 0.
HULLING LEAGUE: First division: Scunthorpe 2 Grimsby 1; Second division: Grimsby 1 Scunthorpe 0.
HULLING LEAGUE: First division: Scunthorpe 2 Grimsby 1; Second division: Grimsby 1 Scunthorpe 0.

ON HARTLEY LEAGUE: First division: Forest Green 2 Dartford 0; Second division: Dartford 0 Forest Green 2.
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: First division: Llanelli 2 Aberystwyth 1; Second division: Aberystwyth 1 Llanelli 2.
FIM HARP LEAGUE: First division: Llanelli 2 Aberystwyth 1; Second division: Aberystwyth 1 Llanelli 2.
WIMBORNE LEAGUE: First division: Wimborne 2 Bournemouth 1; Second division: Bournemouth 1 Wimborne 2.
WIMBORNE LEAGUE: First division: Wimborne 2 Bournemouth 1; Second division: Bournemouth 1 Wimborne 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: First division: Braintree Sports 3 Bognor Regis 0; Second division: Bognor Regis 0 Braintree Sports 3.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Altrincham 2 Macclesfield 1; Second division: Macclesfield 1 Altrincham 2.
BANKERS BREWERY LEAGUE: First division: Salford 4 Walsley Wood 1; Second division: Walsley Wood 1 Salford 4.
SHERWOOD ORIENT LEAGUE: First division: Sherwood 2 Notts Town 1; Second division: Notts Town 1 Sherwood 2.
PONTYFRAITH LEAGUE: First division: Pontyfrith 2 Treharne 1; Second division: Treharne 1 Pontyfrith 2.
WIMBORNE LEAGUE: First division: Wimborne 2 Bournemouth 1; Second division: Bournemouth 1 Wimborne 2.

Leeds United 1 Luton Town 0 (Leeds won 3-1 on aggregate).
CORA LIBERTADORES: Qualifying round: Group Four: Grêmio (BR) 2 Sporting Cristal (PER) 0; Group Five: Nacional (UR) 1 Deportivo Cali (COL) 1.
DUTCH CUP: Semi-final: Roda JC Kerkrade 1 Willem II Tilburg 0.
BELGIAN CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Beerschot A.A. 0 Telenor Anderlecht 1.
FRENCH LEAGUE: First division: Paris 2 Lyon 1; Second division: Lyon 1 Paris 2.
GERMAN CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Bayern 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 1.
SPANISH LEAGUE: First division: Real Madrid 4 Athletic Bilbao 1; Second division: Athletic Bilbao 1 Real Madrid 4.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Celtic 2 Rangers 1; Second division: Rangers 1 Celtic 2.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Wigan 2 Peterborough 1.
RUGBY UNION
COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: London Irish 20 Newcastle 15; Second division: Blackheath 10 Newcastle 7.
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Llanelli 31 Bridgend 17; Second division: Swansea 50.

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 11 Cleveland 6; Seattle 7 Detroit 3; Milwaukee 7 New York Yankees 4; Chicago White Sox 6 Baltimore 2; Toronto 4 Oakland 3; Texas Rangers 3; Minnesota 4 Anaheim 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 7 Cincinnati 1; Los Angeles 5 New York Mets 2; Washington 3 Colorado 0; Chicago Cubs 0; Florida 3 St Louis 1; San Francisco 2 Philadelphia 0; St Pauli 0; Pittsburgh 2; Houston 10 Montreal 2.
BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 80 Boston 102; Cleveland 78 Orlando 82; Detroit 90 Milwaukee 85; Philadelphia 113 New Jersey 105; New York 96 Atlanta 82; Washington 102 Indiana 92; Miami 102 Chicago 92; San Antonio 92; Minnesota 77; Portland 107 Denver 82.
BASKETBALL LEAGUE: Championship: Sheffield 80 London 78; Sheffield 80 London 78.
BOXING
BETHNAL GREEN: Commonwealth lightweight championship: Paul Lloyd (GB) 10 Rocco (ITA) 9; Lloyd 10 Rocco 9.
ROYAL MOUNTING: Commonwealth lightweight championship: Paul Lloyd (GB) 10 Rocco (ITA) 9; Lloyd 10 Rocco 9.

CRICKET
TODAY'S FIXTURES
11.30, first day of three: THE PARKS: Oxford University v Hampshire.
OTHER SPORT
BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand Slam (at Ranelagh).
BASKETBALL: Basketball League Championship play-off: Third leg: Birmingham v Chester (7.30).
HOCKEY: Women's International tournament: Wales v Slovakia (noon); Ireland v Poland (2.30) (at WIS, Cardiff).
WOMEN'S INTER-LEAGUE: Birmingham v Cardiff (2.00); Plymouth v Aldridge (4.00); Bury St Edmunds v Colwell (6.00) (at the Stadium, Bury St Edmunds).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The next few Refreshers will be on the subject of discarding. You only have to play out a long suit and watch your opponents take more and more time over each successive discard to see how difficult most players find it. Fortunately there are some general principles. The one illustrated by today's hand is the importance of maintaining parity with dummy's long suit; that is, keeping as many cards in that suit as dummy has.

Dealer South North-South game

Contract: Three No-Trumps. Lead: King of spades

South opens 20-22 points and a balanced hand, and North raises to Three No-Trumps. South holds up his ace of spades until the third round, and then plays three rounds of hearts, leaving West to find a discard. Even in a weak game, if West held J10xx in diamonds he would not discard the suit. But here West would simply note that this club holding was stronger than his diamonds, and discard a small diamond. Now declarer has four tricks in that suit and makes his contract.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short's success

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As Illescas's offensive gradually ran out of steam Short powered through with a vicious assault in the g-file embellished with a number of neat tactical points involving a knight sacrifice. Ironically, Short's initiative had become so overwhelming towards the end that he was even able to combine his kingside attack with some attractive tactical ploys on the queen's flank, which had earlier been White's target.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Raper aims to reverse Castleford decline

By Christopher Irvine

STUART RAPER will arrive at Castleford Tigers next week with a reputation as one of the brightest young coaches in Australia. Nothing, though, will have prepared him for the task of raising the Yorkshire side from the bottom of the Super League.

Raper's first game in charge will be against St Helens in the unusual setting of Anfield, on Sunday week. Unless they can get off the mark against Halifax Blue Sox this Sunday, a match for which Mick Morgan will remain in temporary charge, Castleford will encounter the champions without a point from eight matches.

Castleford were unfortunate to be beaten in injury time by Leeds Rhinos Tuesday, but that match yielded some promising signs, and Raper, 32, has been told that players he wants can be added to the squad. No such assurance was given to John Joyner, his predecessor, which partly prompted Joyner's decision to part company with the club after a 25-year association.

Raper's curriculum vitae makes impressive reading, with championships at country, under-21 and reserve level with Cronulla last year. Another coaching vacancy was filled yesterday by Les Holliday, the former Great Britain loose forward, who moved up from assistant coach to take charge of Swinton, who are bottom of the first division.

Bradford will hope to maintain the last unbeaten record in the Super League tonight at Paris Saint-Germain, who have not won in five outings since their opening match at Sheffield Eagles. London Broncos have gone native, selecting five British-born players — Nick Mardon, Matthew Salter, Shaun Edwards, Adrian Spencer and Tuisen Tofetu — for their home match against Salford Reds.

RUGBY UNION

Allied forces have future assured

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THERE is more than just money involved in the announcement yesterday of a new sponsor for English club rugby, even though the Allied Dunbar Assurance group brings a record amount into the game. In effect, it draws a demarcation line between the top 24 clubs and the rest, and the introduction of the word "premiership" will have a thousand clubs drawing parallels with the privileged few of English football.

Courage, the brewing company that has sponsored the English league since its inception in 1987, paid £5 million for its last three-year agreement with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), which concludes this season. That money filtered down to all 1,200 competing clubs, whereas Allied Dunbar will pay £6.6 million over three years to sponsor the first and second divisions alone.

There may be trouble ahead, runs the first line of the song in the assurance company's television advertisement, though that will not be the case for the clubs that will benefit. The trouble is likely to come from every other club, unless there is a swift assurance from the RFU that they will not be forgotten.

There is sponsorship and support for leagues three, four and down through the whole

game, principally through RFU resources," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said.

The union's own commercial department should yet be able to benefit from the competition that blossomed to sponsor the game's top end. Allied Dunbar beat off four leading companies for the privilege of injecting £12 million into rugby union, nearly half of which will go into merchandising and support services, which include the establishment of a disability insurance scheme for all players registered with the top 24 clubs.

Over the past decade Courage put £11 million into rugby's coffers. The new agreement, which was negotiated with English Rugby Partnership (ERP), the private limited company established by the RFU and the clubs to manage the professional end of the game, will virtually treble the income for first-division clubs and double that available to the second-division clubs.

"This is the day English club rugby takes a giant step forward," Kim Deshayes, the ERP chief executive, said, but he acknowledged that his organisation must look closely at the structure of coming seasons so as to avoid the fixture congestion that has disfigured the close of this season.

ERP directors claim that already they have increased

the revenue from all sources for next season from £8 million to £10 million, but admit that few, if any, clubs will be able to declare a profit at the end of this season.

The capital costs involved in establishing a professional squad of players, and the necessary support, far outweigh the funds available through normal channels and, even though the Allied Dunbar deal is the biggest of its kind in England, the effect is that first-division clubs will receive around £90,000 a season each and second-division clubs some £50,000 each.

Phil de Glanville, the England captain, said of the new sponsorship: "The players are receiving good news during the later part of the season. The launch of Allied Dunbar's sponsorship is a big filip for clubs and players alike. Players will be reassured that they are secure if their careers are interrupted when they have committed themselves to the life of a professional rugby player."

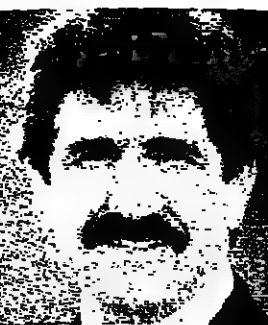
The new competition, which will run from August 23 to May 3, will be known as the Allied Dunbar Premiership one and two. Each division will have 12 clubs playing home and away, with two promotion and relegation places and play-offs for the next two places.



Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, welcomed the decision yesterday to play the internationals against New Zealand, Scotland and France next season at Wembley, rather than Twickenham, while Cardiff Arms Park is being rebuilt. "Twickenham is to all of us the stronghold of England, our main opponent," he said. "Wembley, on the other hand, has no emotional label attached to it."

Title struggle exposes flaws in the system

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

THE chase for the championship in Wales will remain a close-run thing until the end of the season. Pontypridd, Swansea and Llanelli, with six points separating the first from third, are each in with a good chance of winning the league. Llanelli have four matches still to play while the other two have five. Further afield, but still with a mathematical chance, are Cardiff, in fourth place, six league points behind Llanelli. It would be stretching matters too far to include Bridgend, but, again, it is mathematically possible for them to be considered contenders.

All this is possible largely because of the bonus points system that is triggered when a certain number of tries are scored in any match. The winning team can gain an extra two points on top of the two points awarded for a win. If circumstances were different, Cardiff's would be a lost cause by now.

During the past two seasons, when a bonus system of one kind or another has been in operation, the total number of tries scored in Welsh rugby has increased overall. However, artificial the system may be, it certainly has encouraged a more positive attitude, not only to scoring tries but to the game generally.

Not that this is something that Wales alone believes gives rugby a necessary, entertaining shot in the arm. The organisers of the Super 12 series in the southern hemisphere believe in and operate a similar system, but while there are those who raise an eyebrow at the Welsh League, upon the Super 12 everyone seems to shower undiluted praise. It is an odd world.

Nevertheless, if the rugby styles benefit, there remains a genuine element of dissatisfaction. Last season the objective was to score as many tries as possible, regardless of what the opposition did. At that time both teams, winners and losers, could accrue maximum bonus points. Theoretically, therefore, it was possible for a team to lose every match yet still win the championship. Unlikely, but possible.

Since then, the calculation has changed. At present, the bonus system allows an extra point to a team scoring three tries more than the opposition and a further point for six tries. In this way, the formula ensures that defence is rewarded as well as attack.

Yet the system remains patently unfair. For instance, at one stage this season Pontypridd had won three matches more than Swansea, but because they had collected more bonus points, Swansea led the championship last season, look to have the toughest assignment. In the final stages of the season they will have to play the three clubs at present occupying the positions at the top of the table.

scoring system, they should not outweigh in importance the fundamental essence of competition — to win.

Even at this stage of the season, this margin of victory for Pontypridd remains, but with Swansea having gained 19 bonus points to Pontypridd's 14 they are only a point adrift. Swansea have scored 102 tries to Pontypridd's 62.

Unless there is a significant mishap, the clubs at present in the top four will enter the Heineken Cup next season. Below this level there is another struggle. The decision two weeks ago to reduce the first division of the Welsh League from 12 teams to eight is a matter for broad agreement, but to put it mildly, the timing is unfortunate. As with the decision to turn rugby into a professional sport, one that was implemented immediately and failed to recognise the need for a running-in period, so it is with this change.

It was a decision made during a season when clubs such as Llandovery, Cross Keys and Aberavon have been aiming for promotion from the second division. Their efforts have been in vain, for there is to be no promotion to the top division this season. Others have been attempting not to end up among the last two and so avoid relegation, only to find now that four clubs will suffer that fate.

Newbridge are already destined to go down to a 16-club second division. Treorchy and Caerphilly look set to join them. Who will be the fourth? The contest appears to be between Duvant and Neath, on 22 and 21 points respectively, but Newport and Ebbw Vale, both on 24, also inhabit the danger zone. Neath, who won the championship last season, look to have the toughest assignment. In the final stages of the season they will have to play the three clubs at present occupying the positions at the top of the table.

SWIMMING: BRITON'S RECORD PERFORMANCE GOOD ENOUGH ONLY FOR FOURTH PLACE

Newcomers will force rethink for Hickman

FROM CRAIG LORD IN GOTHENBURG

JAMES HICKMAN set a British record in the 100 metres butterfly at the world short-course championships here last night, missing the bronze medal by 0.20sec. The title went to Lars Frolander, of Sweden, the host nation.

It was the fastest butterfly race in history, one that lost little by the failure of Denis Pankratov, the Russian who holds the world record at 51.78sec, to make the final. Frolander clocked 51.95sec, with Geoff Huegill, an Australian newcomer, becoming the third man to dip below 52sec with 51.99sec. Michael Klim,

his team-mate, was third in 52.02sec. Hickman, 21, from Stockport, had led Frolander at halfway, but paid the price down the last of the four lengths. Even so, his 52.22sec was 0.12sec inside the time that he set in February, which was then a European record. "My legs started to give, but

it was good experience and it's looking good for the 200 metres [tomorrow]," he said. Hickman was 13 when his parents divorced and swimming was a distraction from the stress of his fractured family life. "When you've been through two custody battles, well, you learn to cope with anything," he said. "I've never had anything handed to me on a plate, I've had to fight for everything."

Hickman, like Dave Calleja, his coach, admits to being, stubborn, which leads to an explosive environment in training on occasion. "I don't take my problems home to one parent or the other — that carries its own problems," Hickman said. "So, I blow out at Dave and he blows out at me."

Calleja is keen that Hickman's confidence does not spill over into an over-inflated self-opinion. "He's starting to believe his own press," Calleja said. "That can

only harm him. There's a long way to go and this idea of him picking off the other seven swimmers in the final in Atlanta on the way to Sydney is pure pie in the sky."

Last night proved that beyond doubt. Frolander and Huegill are new names for Hickman to contemplate, while just behind him was Nathaniel Dusing, 18 and representing the United States for the first time. He had already broken the high school record of Anthony Nesny, the 1988 Olympic champion, over 100 metres butterfly, this year. In the heats yesterday morning, Dusing improved by 1.38sec to break the United States record of Melvin Stewart, the Olympic champion over 200 metres in 1992.

RESULTS: Men's 100m butterfly: Final: 1. Frolander (Swe) 51.95sec; 2. G. Huegill (Aus) 51.99; 3. M. Klim (Ukr) 52.02; 4. J. Hickman (GB) 52.22. British qualifier: Matt Friesley; 200m: 1. Clayton Ikin 1:27.20; 2. 1:28.00; 400m: 1. 3:58.00; 2. 3:59.00; 800m: 1. 8:00.00; 2. 8:01.00; 1500m: 1. 19:00.00; 2. 19:01.00; 5000m: 1. 16:00.00; 2. 16:01.00; 10000m: 1. 33:00.00; 2. 33:01.00; 50000m: 1. 1:00:00.00; 2. 1:00:01.00.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL: THWARTED CLUB READY FOR NEXT RUNG ON LADDER

Leek on threshold of journey's end

By Walter Gammie

LEEK Town bridle at any suggestion that they are not ready for the Vauxhall Conference as they close in on the UniBond League title, which, their rivals' results permitting, they could clinch with victory at home against Witton Albion tomorrow.

Lynden Davies, the Leek chairman, said: "We had the ground ready with an A grading and should have gone into the Conference three years ago. We were told that we didn't satisfy their finan-

cial criteria — but our finances were in order. "Everything is now definitely OK. We are a stable club and don't have to call on an overdraft facility."

The irony of joining the Conference is that Leek would almost certainly not have to do as much travelling as the season after their disappointment in 1993-94 — when they had finished second to Marine, ineligible for promotion because of their three-sided ground. It was then that they were switched to the then Beazer Homes League. "We

travelled 9,000 miles that season and I don't think we'll match that," Davies said.

Despite the size of crowds at Harrison Park, which average 550 — a reflection on the local competition supplied by Stoke City and Port Vale — Leek are,

Davies said, determined that they would not be "one-season wonders".

Leek followed the classic route for prosperity by selling Tony Bullock, their goalkeeper, to Barnsley on transfer-deadline day for £40,000. With £5,000 invested in Dean Trott, from Stalybridge Celtic, to beef up their forward line, Peter Ward, who stepped up from assistant to take over as manager when Phil Wilson left earlier in the season, has almost completed the next stage on a heart-warming journey.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	40	24	9	7	65	33	81
Marine	42	21	9	12	63	43	77
Hyde Utd	40	19	15	6	66	46	72
Enry	41	20	12	9	70	53	72
Stoke City	40	20	11	9	66	46	71
Marine	41	19	13	9	61	36	70
Stoke City	39	18	13	7	59	37	67

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Play Fantasy Formula One Prizes worth £40,000

The Fantasy Formula One scores for the Argentine Grand Prix appear below. B. Holmes of Surbiton, Surrey wins a trip for two to the British Grand Prix. His team, Beveric 97, scored 852 points at Buenos Aires: M. Smith of Fleet, Hampshire (team name CDC Sport) scored 843 points and wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom games. THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the Portuguese Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro world Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the San Marino Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the British Grand Prix on July 13. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250. TO ENTER Call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last about seven.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN ARGENTINA

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 25; 3rd O Paris 24; 4th M Schumacher 23; 5th R Barrichello 22; 6th R Schumacher 21; 7th E Irvine 20; 8th J Herbert 19; 9th G Fisichella 18; 10th D Coulthard 17; 11th J Alesi 16; 12th G Berger 15; 13th D Hill 14; 14th N Larini 13; 15th J Magnussen 12; 16th J Verstappen 11; 17th M Hakkinen 10; 18th J Trulli 9; 19th M Salo 8; 20th S Nakano 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd E Irvine 50; 3rd R Schumacher 40; 4th J Herbert 30; 5th M Hakkinen 28; 6th G Berger 28; 7th J Alesi 27; 8th M Salo 26; 9th J Trulli 25; 10th J Magnussen 24; (Only 10 finished). Lap points (one point for each lap completed): J Villeneuve 72 points; E Irvine 72; R Schumacher 72; J Herbert 72; M Hakkinen 72; G Berger 72; J Alesi 72; M Salo 71; J Trulli 71; J Magnussen 68; N Larini 63; P Diniz 50; S Nakano 48; J Verstappen 48; U Katayama 37; D Hill 33; R Barrichello 24; G Fisichella 24; O Paris 18; H-H Frenzen 5, improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): M Hakkinen 36 points; M Salo 35; J Trulli 27; G Berger 18; E Irvine 15; J Magnussen 15; J Alesi 12; J Herbert 12. Penalty points (incurred for time of grand prix G Berger 10 points. Elimination during the race (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points; M Schumacher -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frenzen -10; O Paris -10; J Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; P Diniz -10; G Fisichella -10; S Nakano -10; N Larini -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; Ferrari 25; Jordan 24; Sauber 23; McLaren 22; Benetton 21; Tyrrell 19; Minardi 18; Stewart 17. Penalty points (incurred for a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Prost -20 points; Arrows -20; Williams -10; Ferrari -10; McLaren -10; Jordan -10; Sauber -10; Tyrrell -10; Minardi -10; Stewart -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Argentine GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	37 127	13 O Parris	32 289
02 M Schumacher	13 274	14 J Verstappen	44 143
03 J Villeneuve	162 354	15 U Katayama	27 153
04 E Irvine	157 270	16 P Diniz	40 170
05 J Alesi	127 291	17 R Rosem	0 0
06 G Berger	143 415	18 R Schumacher	142 207
07 M Hakkinen	147 400	19 G Fisichella	32 167
08 D Coulthard	7 273	20 S Nakano	46 273
09 R Barrichello	36 113	21 N Larini	66 313
10 H-H Frenzen	20 242	22 J Trulli	132 384
11 J Herbert	133 274	23 J Magnussen	117 158
12 M Salo	138 298	24 V Supplri	0 0
CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
25 Williams	20 49	31 Arrows	-20 -33
26 Ferrari	15 52	32 Sauber	17 44
27 McLaren	12 65	33 Tyrrell	9 8
28 Benetton	21 59	34 Minardi	3 31
29 Jordan	14 38	35 Stewart	7 -33
30 Prost	-20 26	36 Lola	0 0

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CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET

Tendulkar provides acceleration for India

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

INDIA'S pre-match strategy — to post a large first-innings score and put West Indies under pressure on a pitch expected to turn generously — got off to a flat-footed start here after Sachin Tendulkar won the toss and chose to bat in the fifth and final Test match against West Indies.

Pinned down by an attack that was more frugal than menacing, India crawled into three figures in mid-afternoon yesterday, losing Jadeja for a laboured eight, made in 97 minutes, to a catch behind off Ian Bishop, and Sidhu for a more combative 36.

Bishop had bowled without venom until he took Jadeja's wicket, the edge off a forward prod owing more to the batsman's technical deficiencies than the bowler's wiles.

India could have lost both opening batsmen before the total reached 20, but butterfingers fielding led to escapes for Jadeja and Sidhu. The former was dropped at third slip by Stewart Williams off Walsh when he was on four, the chance so simple that the fielder wore a sheepish look for the next hour.

Sidhu's reprieve was more complex, Bishop putting him down in the gully as the batsman slashed at a wide delivery from Rose in the manner of a Sikh warrior maddened by the hot sun.

Rose was the best of the four West Indies quick bowlers, troubling the batsmen with his pace, bounce and movement until Walsh took him off after Sidhu drove him for two fours in an over. The opener, pacing the crease between deliveries, seemed determined to follow Tendulkar's orders to settle down for the day when Walsh got him to nibble at one on off stump after lunch.

At the time of his dismissal India were discussing terms for the first time in the match, as Rahul Dravid drove twice through the covers with strokes of silken culture. After

Sidhu's dismissal, Tendulkar came in and hit Walsh for two fours, hoping to banish the memory of India's slow start. Certainly, his side was guilty of undue deference to the bowlers before lunch, gifting Ambrose the flattering figures of 4-8-1-0 in two separate spells. The bowler, on 205 Test wickets, would gladly have sacrificed a maiden or two for a wicket that would take him closer to 300.

As predicted, India went into the match with five bowlers, preferring Ganesh, the raw seamer, to Ganguly, a batsman, even at the risk of protests in far-away Guyana.

The West Indian selectors banished any subversive thoughts of bleeding Rawle Lewis, the leg-spinning all-rounder, on a potentially responsive Bourda Oval pitch and fielded a team unchanged from the last Test in Antigua. The home side leads the series 1-0.

It is the curse of a genius to be judged by sky-high standards and Tendulkar, in spite of two near-hundreds, has had a lean tour with the bat. Arriving to a rousing welcome — the local Guyanese Indians, who still revere Sunil Gavaskar, call him the "second Little Master" — the India captain put the bowling in its place with a series of joyously timed drives through the covers. One flick off his hips off Walsh raced to the fence almost as rapidly as the bowler had hurled it at him.

INDIA: First Innings
A Jadeja c Brown b Bishop 8
N S Sidhu c Hopper b Walsh 36
R S Dravid not out 30
S R Tendulkar not out 28
TOTAL: 102
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-58, 3-102, 4-102, 5-102
SCORING: Ambrose 19-4-16-0, Bishop 13-5-21-1, Rose 4-2-11-0, Walsh 13-5-35-1, Hopper 1-0-4-0
WEST INDIES: S L Campbell, S C Williams, S Chandrasekhar, B C Lee, C L Hopper, R C Topley, R C Brown, I R Bishop, G E L Anderson, F A Rose, C A Walsh
Umpires: G Sharp (England) and I Michael (Guyana)
Match referee: P van der Merwe (South Africa)



Jones, who made an unbeaten half-century, in defiant mood for Cambridge University at Fenner's yesterday

How to play a gentleman's game

BY IVO TENNANT

FENNER'S (final day of three): Derbyshire beat Cambridge University by an innings and 12 runs

RAIN, which has hardly been espied in The Fens this spring, was all that was likely to prevent Derbyshire from beating Cambridge University by an innings yesterday. A start was not possible until just before midday, but the match was still over by lunch. Rob Jones, the one recent student batsman remaining, made an unbeaten half-century, but there was little else of note.

Jones played initially for Cambridge last year as an off spinner. By the end of term he was considered an all-rounder, having made 61 against Warwickshire, then the county champions. Had he found a tailender to stay with him for long yesterday, he would, in all probability, have surpassed that. His driving square of the wicket off Dean and Hayhurst deserved better.

Cambridge resumed 64 runs behind with four wickets intact. There was no doubting that they would be beaten: it was a question of whether they possessed enough gumption to last for more than a session. That they did not was because Malcolm's pace was beyond the capabilities of Steffen Jones and Freeth. Dean, Derby-born and blessed with the ability to swing the ball in to the right-hander at left-arm brisk medium, took a fourth wicket when he had Churton held at second slip.

How, the last man, whom Rob Jones chose not to protect

from the strike, was left to survive the last over before lunch. He pushed the last ball, bowled by Clarke, into short leg's hands and promptly walked. Told that he did not make contact by Ray Julian, the umpire, and Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, how assured that he had. In university cricket, at least, the game is still played properly.

Julian, incidentally, was standing with Mark Benson, who is attempting to find out whether his dodgy knee will allow him to pursue a second career, as an umpire. He is not

yet on the first-class list. Even for a well-educated former county captain who played for England, there are no certainties. So what will Derbyshire have gleaned from this, their first match of a season in which they are expected to challenge again for the county championship? It would be too trite to say not a lot, although the manner of their victory might suggest that.

For one thing, they have found that Clarke can yet become a county cricketer, even at the third attempt. He can hit the ball cleanly and bowls his leg breaks and googlies with some accuracy. The hope is that he will prove consistent enough to go in at No 6.

For another, they have seen that Dean is an improved bowler for having put on a stone during his winter of club cricket in Perth. He has a part to play this season, not least when Cork is with England. As for the result, that carries little relevance to what lies ahead.

FENNER'S SCOREBOARD

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 195 (E T Smith 85)
Second Innings
J Rastledge lbw b DeFreitas 18
E T Smith b Dean 28
A Singh b Malcolm 5
W J House c Hayhurst b DeFreitas 13
R O Jones not out 57
O Hughes lbw b Dean 10
M W Dawson lbw b Dean 9
D R H Churton c Jones b Dean 15
P S Jones b Malcolm 18
J W O Freeth b Malcolm 1

E J How c Rollins b Clarke 0
Searc 10 (1)
Total 158
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-44, 3-59, 4-74, 5-74, 6-74, 7-104, 8-145, 9-151
BOWLING: Malcolm 16-3-54-3; DeFreitas 9-4-21-2; Clarke 7-1-25-1; Dean 9-1-38-4; Vandenro 1-1-0-0; Hayhurst 5-1-18-0
DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 363 for 7 dec (AS Rollins 75, D M Jones 58, VP Clarke 57, J W O Freeth 4 for 101)
Umpires: R Julian and M R Benson

Students sent down with all guns blazing

BY JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (final day of three): Durham beat Oxford University by 97 runs

OXFORD University batted through all but the last 29 balls of a dramatic day, finally yielding to a near-frantic Durham, who, as the students' rearguard action wore on, must have wondered whether their first victory in first-class cricket since September 1995 would be denied them. Oxford finally went down, but they did so with most hands on deck and all flags flying, thanks to an extraordinary innings by Chetan Patel. In the context of playing for a draw, which was the best Oxford could reasonably expect, Patel's script was different from the rest.

He came in at the fall of the sixth wicket, with Durham having made, to all intents and purposes, the vital breaches in the University defences. Stubborn resistance from Charlie Lightfoot, Byron Byrne and, for the second time in the match, James Fulton had been broken. Alex Scrim, another first-innings lumpet, was at the crease, but Durham were poised for the kill.

Patel saw out the 31 balls he received before the tea interval quietly enough, but he came in for refreshment having already displayed restive tendencies in the face of Scrim's attempts to keep the strike. After tea he cut loose against Killen's fast-medium and Cox's left-arm spin. From 18 balls he took 40 runs. In all, he hit six and eight fours before he mistimed Cox and was caught at silly mid-off for 50. By then Oxford were back in the hunt.

Before Patel, Oxford had batted bravely, but it seemed that an early afternoon spell by Simon Brown, with his extra pace, bounce and move-

ment, had uncovered a fatal flaw in the Oxford innings. Brown had already removed Haynes to leave Oxford on nine for two in the second over of the day, but Lightfoot's 45, Byrne's 36 and Fulton's stubborn stay had stiffened Oxford's resolve.

Brown removed both Byrne and Fulton, and after Lightfoot, and in mid-afternoon Oxford stood at 114 for five. Brown had taken four wickets for 30 and seemed primed to take on England A today. When Loughton was caught at slip,

Waqar Younis, the Pakistan fast bowler, has picked up a toe injury that is likely to delay his debut for Glamorgan, scheduled for the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Middlesex in Cardiff on May 2. Waqar will miss the two-Test series with Sri Lanka starting later this week.

Oxford began to look demoralised.

Patel, accompanied by Scrim, changed all that. His innings showed what could be done and, although Scrim and Averbis did nothing that hinted of emulation, they played some pleasing strokes as the last 20 overs were ticked off one by one.

Averbis was so overcome by the unexpected ease of it all that he took one chance too many. He lofted Bolling to long off with ten overs to go. Worse followed. Going for a second run to protect the vulnerable Mather, a direct hit brought about Scrim's downfall. Although Bull came in to bat one-handed, the other being broken, Mather's technique could not survive a straight ball from Bolling.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

DURHAM: First Innings 363 for 7 dec (AS Rollins 75, D M Jones 58, VP Clarke 57, J W O Freeth 4 for 101)
Second Innings 144 for 3 dec (D C Boon 58)
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 153 (A P Scrim 58 not out, JAG Fulton 54, M Benson 6 for 51)
Second Innings 102
R D Hudson lbw b Brown 0
J E Haynes lbw b Brown 4
C G R Lightfoot c Speight b Collingwood 45
B W Byrne c Collingwood b Brown 36
JAG Fulton b Brown 37

"N E F Loughton c Collingwood b Bolling 1
C Patel c Mather b Cox 28
A P Scrim not out 22
M Averbis c Kallis b Bolling 42
D P Mather lbw b Bolling 0
J Bull not out 0
E Jones lbw b Cox 13, 10, 21, 22
Total 158
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-9, 3-42, 4-105, 5-114, 6-114, 7-161, 8-241, 9-247
BOWLING: Brown 22-9-35-4, Bates 21-7-43-0, Killen 13-4-45-0, Collingwood 6-2-21-1, Bolling 20-11-21-3, Cox 11-6-41-1, Speck 4-0-14-0
Umpires: J H Harris and N A Mollender

Australia built around twin towers

In my mind it is very clear: if England want to beat Australia, they have to beat the Waugh twins, Steve and Mark. As the captain of South Africa, I was full of hope at the start of our recent series against Australia and would have put money on us winning more than one Test.

However, we lost the series 2-1. Whenever we seemed to be getting the upper hand, one of the Waugh brothers would prevent it. At the Wanderers, during the first Test, we made 302 and had them 174 for four, giving us a realistic chance of securing a small first-innings lead. Enter Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett. We always felt we had a chance of getting Blewett out, but "Tugga" never looked like throwing his wicket away.

He played a significant role in calming Blewett down and building a big partnership. He remains one of those players who believes too many players are in a hurry in Test matches and is quite prepared to bide his time and grind the opposition into the ground.

With Blewett batting at No 6, Michael Bevan at No 7, Ian Healy at No 8 and Shane Warne at No 9, Australia have



Hansie Cronje, the captain of South Africa, runs the rule over the tour party and identifies its strengths

a very long and strong batting line-up. Blewett plays fluently off both front and back foot, is prepared to take bowlers on, and is especially severe on the short ball, pulling through mid-wicket. Because of his strong bottom-hand grip, he does leave a gap outside the off stump and can get bowled through this area when driving through the off side.

Mark Taylor has well-publicised problems with his own form, but I expect him to come back strongly. He did not know where his off stump was against us and only looked comfortable flicking off his pads. He might enjoy playing on English wickets again after the bounce of pitches in Australia and South Africa. I am glad he has got the nod to lead the team — he has been instrumental in Australia's recent success.

By the squad selections, I think the Australians have strengthened their batting. Slater is a very fluent

stroke-maker, with an average of 47, who is keen to get back into the Test team. Ricky Ponting is also a strong selection, a seasoned campaigner.

Matthew Elliott is adventurous in his strokeplay but he can get into trouble with the bouncer and hooks in the air, although we thought he was a pretty good all-round cricketer. He drives hard, cuts well and scores quickly, so the principles of bowling with discipline to him must be applied. I believe a good spin attack would go a long way towards frustrating Australia and getting them out.

One player who remains an enigma to me is Mark Waugh. He always looks loose outside the off stump, but when he smells an opportunity to win a match by scoring a hundred, he takes it. He is not as consistent as his brother, but he is more dangerous and destructive and England should not bowl straight at him, but should

aim for off stump and outside on a good length.

As for the bowling, McGrath is world-class. He bowls from close to the stumps, gets bounce, hits the seam, changes his pace well and has a deceptive bouncer. What impressed me the most was his ability to bowl long spells and remain aggressive all the time. He found the perfect partner in Jason Gillespie, who is genuinely quick, swings the ball mainly away from the right-hander and attacks off stump all the time. He developed a lot on tour here in South Africa.

Australia's one bowling weakness was the lack of a back-up seamer. If England can get through the first 20 overs without losing a wicket, they will put a lot of pressure on Australia. However, Kasparowicz has been added to the squad and his ability to swing the ball might suit English conditions.

Warne needs no introduction, but Bevan also bowled well against us at times and that helped the Australians. The whole team's body language and cricket discipline is brilliant and mentally they are very tough to beat. However, England can give them a run for their money.

Hopefuls face test of potential

BY SIMON WILDE

PROFESSIONAL cricket in England is often accused of lacking character, but the match starting at Edgbaston today will not want for a steely edge.

The meeting of England A and The Rest — a scratch team that replaced the champion county in the traditional season-opener for the Testers' Shield last year — brings together 22 players with credible ambitions of playing for England.

The next four days will present them with a golden opportunity to make an impression on the two Davids — David Lloyd, the England coach, who will guide the players, and David Grayveney, who managed the England A side in Australia during the winter and will now observe the game as chairman of selectors. The England A party, under the captaincy of Adam Holoake, showed a rare degree of hard-headedness on that tour and it reaped dividends.

Two England A players — Craig White and Ashley Giles — have pulled out of the match because of injuries and been replaced by Ben Holoake, Adam's younger brother, and Peter Such.

The younger Holoake spent a highly successful winter with England Under-19s in Pakistan, while Such was, in any case, a member of the England A touring team. The only other England A player not on show is Owais Shah, who is studying for exams.

The match will also be a test for Steve Rouse, the Edgbaston groundsmen, whose two most recent Test pitches were marked down, calling into question the future of international cricket in Birmingham.

ENGLAND A: A J Holoake (Sussex), M A Butler (Sussex), J E R Giffen (Lancashire), M P Vaughan (Yorkshire), M G Smith (Yorkshire), W K Hagg (Lancashire), W S Searc (Lancashire), P M Such (Essex), A J Harris (Derbyshire), D W Hestley (Kent)
THE REST: M R Ramprakash (Middlesex), D L Maddy (Lancashire), C J Adams (Derbyshire), R J Warren (Northamptonshire), V S Searc (Northamptonshire), D A Coaker (Gloucestershire), C Hellebrake (Sussex), A J Taylor (Sussex), G J E Brown (Durham), C E W Silverwood (Yorkshire)

Lloyd runs into form in fine style

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Lancashire

The season may be only a few days old, but already the country's batsmen appear to be getting into their stride. It was Graham Lloyd's turn yesterday, as the 27-year-old Lancashire man plundered 225 off just 151 balls to post the highest first-class score of the summer — or at least the spring — so far. More to the point, he guided Lancashire to a 193-run lead over their perennial rivals in the process.

Lloyd struck ten sixes and 25 fours in the course of his assault on the Yorkshire bowling and helped to set a handful of records in the process. His partnership of 249 from 31 overs with Ian Austin was the best for Lancashire's seventh wicket, beating the 245 by A H Hornby and J Sharp against Leicestershire at Old Trafford in 1912, and was thus the highest for that wicket at Yorkshire's expense, surpassing the 220 by John Murray and Don Bennett for Middlesex at Headingley in 1964. In addition, the Lancashire total of 482 now stands as a record for the team in Yorkshire, overtaking the 450 compiled on the same ground in 1948.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 330 (B Parker 85 not out, M J Wood 81, G Yalms 4 for 46)
Second Innings
M D Mason c Hestley b Fittall 10
M J Wood not out 21
D Byas not out 2
Extras 10 (1, 1, 3, 5)
Total 140
FALL OF WICKET: 1-32
BOWLING: Mason 8-3-16-0, Green 8-4-12-0, Fittall 3-2-3-1, Austin 3-2-0-0

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
S P Tredwell c Kettleborough b Hamilton 11
P C Mckenna b Hoggard 35
J J Haynes b Kettleborough 21
A Fittall b Wheat 9
N H Farnborough b Barry 25
G Lloyd c Byas b Hestley 42
M Warrington c Mason b Stemp 45
D Austin c Chapman b Stemp 63
G Yalms lbw b Stemp 13
R J Gaven not out 12
P J Mason c Parker b Hamilton 10
Extras 16 (1, 1, 2, 2)
Total 482
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-52, 3-69, 4-105, 5-111, 6-173, 7-221, 8-245, 9-482
BOWLING: Hamilton 18-4-37-3, Wheat 18-24-1-1, Hoggard 20-4-110-1, Kettleborough 13-5-74-1, Barry 5-0-50-1, Stemp 13-1-65-3
Umpires: N E Palmer and R A White

SPORT IN BRIEF

Oliver sets his sights on European crown

SPENCER OLIVER, one of Britain's most exciting young boxers, has a chance to underline his potential in a European title bout on May 20 (Srikumar Sen writes). The Bamet super-bantamweight takes on Martin Krastev, of Bulgaria, the champion, at Pickets Lock, north London.

Although only 22, he is so highly rated that his manager, Jess Harding, has no qualms about putting him in for a leading title. Harding believes that Oliver, a Commonwealth Games silver medal-winner, can go on to win a world title in 15 months.

Athletics: The British Athletic Federation announced a three-year sponsorship worth £1 million with Spar super-

markets yesterday. Among other initiatives, Spar will sponsor a British Challenge against an international select team at Crystal Palace on August 17.

Curling: Scotland beat the United States 7-6 in their final round-robin match of the world championships in Berne to top the leaderboard along with the title favourites, Canada.

Michael Williams, 63, golf correspondent of The Daily Telegraph since 1971, collapsed and died after a heart attack yesterday morning while playing at Chelmsford Golf Club, where he was a past captain, and his widow, Judy, is the present ladies' captain.

SNOOKER

Champion to pocket £210,000 prize-money

BY PHIL YATES

THE Embassy world championship, which celebrates its seventieth anniversary when it starts at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield tomorrow, has evolved into one of the most lucrative calendars on the British sporting calendar, with £126 million in prize-money. The champion on May 5 will collect £210,000 compared with the £6,000 secured by John Spencer when he became the first winner of the championship at the Crucible in 1977 — some £2,300 less than the amount awarded to losers in the final qualifying round at Telford last month.

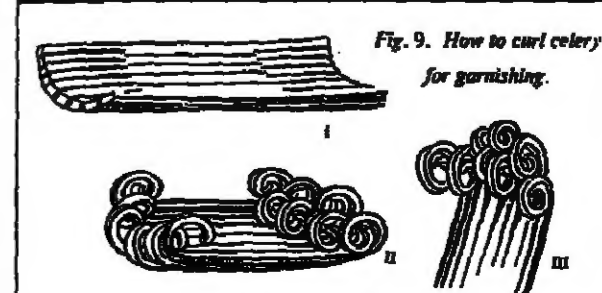
The player who compiles the highest break over the next

17 days will benefit by £18,000, rising to £165,000 for a maximum 147. The renewal last year of the BBC television contract through to the millennium, and the healthy viewing figures that this generates, has ensured that the bubble is not about to burst. Embassy, sponsor of the championship since 1976, has pledged increases in prize-money each year, with £250,000 going to the winner in 2000.

Though the value of a tournament does not directly influence its prestige — for many years, the golf Open Championship had a significantly lower prize fund than a run-of-the-mill US PGA Tour stop — it undoubtedly enhances it.

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Inspiring support: Chelsea fans were in good voice as they roared on their team in the epic FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford on Sunday

Blue Army's grand day out

So, more things fall into place, which is nice. For instance, did you realise that there's no point phoning man of thematch votes for David Ginola during games not involving Newcastle? Well, I didn't. I've spent a small fortune doing that.

More importantly (but in the same area of confusion), I finally realised that the up-beat chant "Vialli Vialli" heard oddly at matches untouched by that bald, suffering Chelsea icon is in fact "Blue Army! Blue Army!" elided to sound like "biwami". "Where?" I always used to think. "Vialli? Is he here? Is he in disguise? Where is he?"

Chesterfield were a biwami too, you see, last Sunday at Old Trafford. "Biwami, biwami" they cried. A crowd of 25,000 Spireites rolled up in festive mood, noisily determined to have the time of their lives and "seemingly" careless of the deserted town they'd left behind in Derbyshire.

"Oh dear," I said aloud, amid a sea of blue and white-painted families, with balloons, flags and special T-shirts, "this is what they call a Burglars' Charter." But it seems I was alone in picturing the inevitable consequence of everybody leaving Chesterfield at once — ie, thousands of leather-studded sofas being herded, mooing and slipping into the backs of vans at gunpoint.

What a terrific match it was. Worth sacrificing that

old settler for, certainly. In my own case, it was even worth driving 532 miles.

The irony was that I assumed I'd drawn the short straw with this semi-final; I'd been angling for a ticket to Highbury. It was only when I stopped at the services in Birmingham and thought "What? How? But surely?" that I suddenly realised my assignment to the North was nothing more than a diversionary tactic, preventing my well-attended Chelsea Jinx Effect from inflicting further damage on a much-loved club (Chelsea supporters are everywhere in high places).

So I wasn't expecting much, to be honest. Of the two teams, I knew nothing whatever of chirpy little Chesterfield, while moaning little Middlesbrough had started to get on my nerves.

Why can't Ravanelli find the goal? Nobody moves it, do they? If they want to win things, why don't they just get on with it? Why does Emerson bother getting the ball if he can't see anybody to pass it to? Things did not look promising and I took a lot of good music for the journey back.

But then Chesterfield got their balloons out, a brass band marched, the stadium thundered with that biwami stuff. David Eilley's whistle blew and the struggle commenced. Surrounded by heaving, happy Chesterfield fans, I felt slightly awkward to be sitting in a small, tense Boro enclave, its spiritual leader a vocal and excited boy

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

of ten asking for a clip round the ear. Usually it's quite easy to spot the underdog, but suddenly (what with this annoying but heroic child, and everything) it was confusing.

So I adopted a schizophrenic approach that meant that each goal was terrific and the final outcome of this multiple-orgasm match was totally satisfactory. Thus, when Middlesbrough's Vladimir Kinkor was momentarily sent off, I could see both sides to the situation very happily. "Biwami, biwami," I cheered. "Stupid up, if you love Boro."

Supporting opposing teams is less of a strain on the psyche than you might expect and the great thing is: whatever the outcome, you win. "Yes!" I squealed, when Chesterfield heroically went two goals ahead. "Er, yes, yes!" I

yelled again, when Middlesbrough fought back. Personally, I've never had it so good.

In extra time, Festa scored what appeared to be the winning goal and, well, "Yes!" seemed again the appropriate shout. And then Chesterfield's Jamie Hewitt equalised in the 119th minute and "Yes!" just wasn't adequate any more. I nearly burst into tears.

The small boy looked a bit sick, but I didn't care. The ball's elegant trajectory, bouncing high off Hewitt and arcing in slow motion over the goalkeeper's head, was astonishingly beautiful. No wonder everybody went mad.

Back home in Chesterfield, the Sahagat ground holds 8,500. I did wonder, therefore, whether the 25,000 who turned up on Sunday were really what you might call hard core. On the other hand, what a good idea to co-opt happy, dancing supporters depending on cup success.

Unlike the Middlesbrough fans at Old Trafford, you see, the new fair-weather Spireites had every reason to be totally optimistic. Assuming they joined the biwami during the Cup run, some of these fans were not only strangers to defeat, but had never before seen their team concede a goal.

Compare the shredded nerves of Middlesbrough. Yes, they sang and waved in equal measure, but when the final whistle blew they just melted away, leaving Chesterfield to party on their own.

One minute the North Stand was full of red shirts, the next it was empty seats and the aroma of despair.

A quota of 25,000 tickets equates roughly with the Riverside's season-ticket holding, and while these blokes have certainly had a lot of football for their money this year, the hollow-eyed Dostoevskian look cries aloud for a holiday on the Planet Zog.

As they filed out on Sunday, I'm convinced that they knew they would lose to Leicester City on Wednesday. And now that they have really lost a cup — and Ravanelli has wept in public — things are just awful.

Middlesbrough supporters used to sing a chorus of *Que sera, sera* which went (I think) "Que sera, sera, Start putting the beer on ice, we're going to Wembley twice, Che sera, sera." That's called hubris, that is.

On a happier note, my drastic removal to the North West worked a treat as far as the Chelsea Jinx Effect is concerned, which means there is a half-chance that the FA Cup Final will now be a game of two biwamis — a biwamiad. Doubtless I will be banned from attending, but I state here and now that I shall not only watch it at home chanting "Vialli, Vialli!" even if he's not playing, but shall also register several stout votes for David Ginola, if only for old times' sake.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool remain positive

By Peter Ball

BEFORE the event, Liverpool had proclaimed the Merseyside derby on Wednesday as a "must-win" game. In the event, they failed to get the win they wanted, dropping not only two points but also losing their striker, Robbie Fowler, from the final three games of the season after he was sent off for violent conduct.

Yesterday, Liverpool were putting a brave face on things. Roy Evans, the manager, reiterated his conviction, offered in the immediate aftermath of the game, that winning one point in a 1-1 draw from the visit to Goodison Park could prove invaluable and even questioned whether the "must-win" scenario has now transferred to the match tomorrow morning with the FA Cup Premier League Leaders, Manchester United.

"That point keeps us right in it," he said. "If we don't win on Saturday, it will be a kick in the teeth, but it still doesn't come down to one game. We're in the middle of our difficult spell, but United still have theirs to come, with four games in eight days — and everyone is ignoring Arsenal, but they are right in it too and have the easiest run-in."

Nevertheless, Liverpool could hardly avoid reflecting that, once again, with the opportunity beckoning to put pressure on United, they had shot themselves in the foot. Defensive uncertainties and missed chances let Everton back into the game after the visitors had dominated the early stages, mistakes compounded by the loss of Fowler.

Fowler and David Nowshir, the Everton defender sent off for fighting with the Liverpool forward,

face three-match suspensions. Depending on the referee's report, Fowler may face further charges for reviving the disagreement on the way off the field. Even if he does not, it is a costly time for Fowler to be suspended, just when his partnership with McManaman was burgeoning.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has told John Collins and Paul Lambert that they will take part in the Scots' build-up to the crucial World Cup group four qualifying match with Sweden on April 30 instead of playing for their clubs, as they had hoped. Brown yesterday named the midfield players in his 21-man party for the qualifying tie and revealed that he is invoking

the five-day ruling of Fifa, football's world governing body, to make sure the players are with him for a training session on the Saturday before the game in Gothenburg. Collins will miss AS Monaco's French league encounter with Marseilles and Lambert Borussia Dortmund's meeting with Arminia Bielefeld in Germany, both on April 26.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (in Sweden in Gothenburg, April 26): 1. Boyd (Celtic), 2. Barclay (Celtic), 3. Collier (Hibernian), 4. Collins (AS Monaco), 5. Ferguson (Aberdeen), 6. Galtchuk (Blackburn), 7. Hendry (Blackburn), 8. Hendry (Blackburn), 9. Hendry (Blackburn), 10. Hendry (Blackburn), 11. Hendry (Blackburn), 12. Hendry (Blackburn), 13. Hendry (Blackburn), 14. Hendry (Blackburn), 15. Hendry (Blackburn), 16. Hendry (Blackburn), 17. Hendry (Blackburn), 18. Hendry (Blackburn), 19. Hendry (Blackburn), 20. Hendry (Blackburn), 21. Hendry (Blackburn).

Answers from page 42

OPISTHONAR

(a) The back of the hand. In pronouncing, the stress falls on the *pis*. "Mum, you scream from the bedroom at 6.30 am, when she is only just beginning to fumble towards wakefulness. I've got nasty little red spots all over my opisthonor."

UXORIOUS

(c) Excessively fond of a wife. From the Latin. There is nothing in the etymology that excludes the word's coverage of the wives of others. The equivalent word for women who are excessively fond of husbands is *maritornus*. Elizabeth Taylor is *maritornus*.

BORBOROGYM

(d) The noise made by gas in the bowels. Breaking wind. Yes, a fart. "Mum, Jamie's doing work experience in Social Welfare Studies this term. He goes round a different suburb every Thursday afternoon leaving borborogym in phone boxes."

NAPALM

(e) Since Vietnam, we all know what napalm is. But did you know that the word is a portmanteau from *naphthalene* and *palmitic* of course not. Nor does your neighbour, the one with the three yapping Jack Russells in his garden. "Yes, I've noticed that the dogs seem very restless. John. Have you tried naphthalene palmitate? I hear it's good for that sort of thing."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Bg2 2 Nxd2 Nxb3 3 Kf1 Qh2 and wins. e.g. 4 Rxb7 Qg1- 5 Kc2 Qx2 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

Do you remember when...?

Timeswatch: Back to the Iron Age

BBC2, 7.10pm

Older viewers may recall an experiment mounted by the BBC in which a group of volunteers agreed to live for a year in Iron Age conditions. *Living in the Past* was the series which charted their progress. Twenty years later some of the participants reflect on their experiences in a film which tries to assess the authenticity of the attempt to reconstruct a 2,000-year-old lifestyle. The message is that every generation imposes its own outlook on the past. This was reflected in the group's obsession with cleanliness, democratic decision-making and privacy, none of them Iron Age values. And to modern vegetarians struggling with the necessity to live off animals, John Farnham, who produced the original series, has come up with an entertaining film which makes you think that if the experiment was repeated now the results could be quite different.

Sunnyside Farm

BBC2, 9.30pm

The premise of this new sitcom by Richard Preddy and Gary Howe seems to be that the coarser the language and the behaviour the funnier it will be. We are so shocked that we have to laugh, or so the writers hope. It is a dangerous strategy but it may just work, once the scene-setting is out of the way. Two brothers inherit a rundown farm, Ray (Phil Daniels) is a drunken lout, Ken (Mark Addy) a half-wit who dresses up in women's clothes. Hardly have the opening credits rolled than Ray soon gets himself covered in animal excrement, thus setting the tone for much of what follows. In contrast to the squabbling pair are Helen (Beth Goddard) and Justin (Tony Gardner), a nice middle-class city couple who have decided to try the rural life. The friction between the brothers and the incomers, and Ray's lecherous designs on Helen, promise to sustain much of the humour.

Have I Got News For You

BBC2, 10.00pm

The approach to a general election seems the ideal time to bring back Angus Deayton, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop, with the promise that if political balance has to be maintained it will only mean



Do they have news for you? (BBC2, 9.00)

insulting everybody equally. This latest helping of topical irreverence takes the show into its 13th series and the formula seems good for a few years yet. After all, the Radio 4 parent, *The News Quiz*, has been running since the 1970s. If Deayton and company sometimes take too much delight in being crude for crude's sake, there is usually sufficient wit to compensate. As usual the show is coy about announcing its guests too far in advance. But we should not expect an appearance tonight from Swampy, the roads protestor, despite previous publicity.

Phil Kay Feels...

Channel 4, 10.30pm

A 21-year-old comic from Glasgow, Phil Kay opens his first television series by facing the audience naked. It is an arresting start, though luckily the full flash is over in a flash and he does the rest of the show covered up. Kay's act, very much in the modern idiom, is a nice mix of arm-waving stream of nonsense, apparently concocted on the hoof. He does not so much tell jokes as assault the eardrums. The humour is difficult to pin down and defies conventional categories. But if the sight of Kay stepping on a piece of horse excrement tickles your funny bone, or getting a male member of the audience to totter across the stage in a pair of women's stilettos, this could be the night. The older generation, however, may pine for Morescombe and Wise. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Our Roaming Reporter

Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

The mark of the broadcast reporter is that he or she is the product of a system. This creates professionalism, but there is a danger that it filters out personality. This is not some depressing modern trend, but what is different is that, now, it is hard to think of anyone in current affairs broadcasting who is quirky, one of the many approving words that could be applied to Fyle Robertson. He arrived on television's *Tonight* programme in the 1960s at the age of 55 with no previous experience, distinguished only by an ability to write well, a beard and a funny tweed hat. Through his pen, he became a national treasure and this programme amply demonstrates the reasons why.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm John Peel 1.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier 6.15pm Newsbeat 8.30pm Pete Tong 10.00pm One in the Jungle 12.00pm Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 8.05am Wake Up to Wogan 10.00am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00pm Stuart Grogg 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Time from the Hippodrome, Golders Green. With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Robin Stapleton 9.15pm Last Orders. Read by George Cole (2/8) 9.30pm Listen to the Band 10.00pm Sheridan Morley 12.05am Charles Hove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am The Magazine 12.00pm Midday with Mel 2.00pm Race on Five, including racing from Newbury 4.00pm John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00pm News 7.30pm Friday Sport with John Murray, Rugby League: Super League, Pans St Germain v Bradford Bulls, Football: Ipswich v Norwich from Nationwide Stadium 10.00pm Britain's Election Night 12.00am After Hours 5.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wier 7.00pm Paul Ross 9.00pm Scott Cranston 12.00pm News 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Doreenine, with Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Moe Dee's Sponsors 10.00pm Mike Alton 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30am Europe Today 7.15pm The World Today 7.30pm Meridian Books 8.15pm On the Shelf 8.30pm Composer of the Month 8.10pm Pause for Thought 8.15pm Performance 9.30pm John Peel 10.05pm Business Report 10.15pm Neighbours 10.30pm BBC English 10.45pm Sport 11.20pm Assignment 12.00pm Focus on Faith 1.05pm Business Report 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm What's That You're Eating 1.45pm Sport 3.00pm Outlook 3.20pm Multitask 4.05pm Multitask 4.15pm Report of London 4.30pm Science in Action 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm Business Report 5.45pm Britain Today 6.15pm The World Today 6.30pm Record News 6.45pm Sport 7.30pm Reports from the BBC 8.00pm Outlook 8.25pm Pause for Thought 8.30pm Multitask 10.05pm Business Report 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm People and Politics 10.45pm Sport 11.20pm The Today 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm The Village Chart Show 1.30pm Turning a Tune 1.45pm Britain Today 2.30pm The Works 3.30pm Focus on Faith 4.05pm Business Report 4.15pm Sport 4.30pm Europe Today 4.45pm On the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00am Mike Read 9.00am Hall of Fame 10.00pm Henry Kelly 12.00pm Election '97 1.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 25 in C major, KV503) 3.00pm Jamie Cullum 7.00pm Classic Connection 7.30pm Sonnets. J. C. Bach (Two Sonnets in G major, F 105) 8.00pm Evening Concert. Schubert (Symphony No 3 in D) 10.00pm Jane Marchant 12.00am Lunchtime Concerto (1)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' John 10.00pm Graham Dean 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00pm Nelly Hume 7.00pm Paul Doyle (FM) 10.00pm Alan Freeman 12.00pm Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F, BWV 1048; Strauss (Symphony Domestica); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 10); Garshwin (Rhapsody in Blue, original version), Elgar (Cello Concerto)

9.00am Morning Collection, with Penny Gore includes Mozart (Overture from The Magic Flute); Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat minor, HXV); Mendelssohn (Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings in D minor)

10.00am Musical Encounters, with Chris De Souza, includes Weber (Overture Oberon); Shostakovich (Klezmer Sonata); Bach, transcribed Mortensen (Violin Partita in BWV1014); Howells (Ragus Dei Missa Sabranensis); Schubert (Five Moments in Son Trios); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E minor, Op 90); Brahms (Double Concerto in a minor).

12.00pm Concerto for the 18th-Century Opera, Paul Gunery introduces highlights from Nicola Jommelli's drama *Armida abbandonata*

1.00pm Concerto for the 18th-Century Opera, Chris De Souza introduces a concert by J. Foglia. Plus a programme exploring the connections between early Renaissance France from French chansons and Italian madrigals. Featuring works by Josquin, Lassus, Arcadelt and Willert

2.00pm Private Passions, Michael Berkeley talks to John Eliot Gardiner about his new CD, *The Music of J. S. Bach*. London includes Verdi (Il Trovatore); Schubert (Piano Sonata in B flat, D960); Schubert (Schwanengesang) (1)

3.00pm Afternoon Concert, Sandy Bunnett presents a concert from the 1955 season of Promenades with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Antal Dorati. Includes Mozart (Masonic Funeral Music, K477)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00am News Briefing 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.50pm Party Election Broadcast, by the Labour Party

9.00am News 9.05am Election Call, Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party. Call 0345-514614 (1)

10.00am News; Our Roaming Reporter. See Choice

10.30pm Women's Hour, with Ruth Wishart. See: The Portrait of a Lady

11.30pm The History Programme, Presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00pm News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Race Report, Presented by Derek Cooper 12.55pm Weather

1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm Classic FM: The Queen of Time, by George Mackay Brown and dramatised by Stuart Conn. Thornton's loss of Sophie and his father's renegade echo other changes in the island's life with Paul Morow (2/1)

3.00pm News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor David Cook investigates some of history's most absurd electoral victors, including goats, pigs and corpses

4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope, Tim Marlow sees a double bill of new films from director Abel Ferrara, including *The Funeral* starring Christopher Walken 4.45pm Short Story: Squid, by Ian Grant. Start of an appointment a glow puppet as managing director (1)

5.00pm PM 5.50pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather 6.30pm Growing Spaces, in the gardening magazine Ed Stark and guests explore the treasures of the

R. H. S. Lundy Library 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm Pick of the Week, Chris Sells presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television

8.05pm Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Hackney With Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind; Liz Lynne, Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on social security; Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College Oxford

8.50pm Lushere's Children, Christopher Cook continues his look at developments in technology and its effects on the film industry. Georges Méliès started audiences with screen magic beginning a trend for film-makers to visual the impossible in

9.15pm Letter from America, by Alastair Cooke 9.30pm Kaleidoscope Feature, Brian Sibley explores how Frank Capra's film became the embodiment of the American Way. In the past of his most famous film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, the programme tries to imagine popular culture if Capra had never been born (1)

10.00pm The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Ross (10/10)

11.00pm Week Ending, The topical comedy sketch show with Sally Grace

11.25pm The Junction, Patrick Harman and guests take a topical look at the week's events

11.45pm The New Recruit: Traffic Wardens A related news discusses the return of the job to a woman embarking on her career (16/1)

12.00pm News 12.30pm The Late Show: Spilled Salt by Barbara Neely A mother's love is tested when her son returns home after serving a prison sentence for rape (1) (8/10)

12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.3, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 150, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 893, 925, WORLD SERVICE, MW 645, LW 150 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosamary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Ritual sacrifice of real life in EastEnders

You have to admire the audacity. To have an episode as silly and corny as last night's *EastEnders* (BBC1) and remain absolutely certain that what passes for real life in Walford will be seamlessly resumed next week takes real nerve. There was even a moment of almost genuine emotion, for goodness sake. "I just want you to know, son, that I love you very much," whispered Frank (Mike Reid) in one of his fleeting, fly-by-day appearances. "I'm very happy for you." Blink and you missed him... but at least you could see again.

But already I'm in danger of starting at the end, of jumping straight to the vintage *Carry On* glee that Barbara Windsor had been saving for the occasion. Ricky and Bianca's big day, you see, had finally dawned, or, to be strictly accurate, had half-past-eight. Bianca awoke in her own bed, nursing a modest hang-over which

was instantly soothed by the arrival of a morning cup-of-tea. Ricky awoke in a field, accompanied by Grant, Phil and Nigel. You could tell this wasn't real life because all four were in far better shape than anybody who had been drinking heavily until three in the morning could expect to be. Sure, Grant went through the motions: "I've got a throat like a coalminer's jacket," but you could tell their headaches weren't really in it. Nigel even managed a bit of French.

"Je suis un hovercraft," he explained, in the mistaken belief that they were either in France or a long-lost episode of *Allo, Allo*. Turned out they were in Kent. The question was (as the question always is) would they get Ricky to the church on time. Of course they did — thanks to a farmer straight out of *Cold Comfort Farm*, a vintage tractor (at one point overtaken by a bicycle) and an obliging

lorry driver, they got there with absolutely no minutes to spare. "Round again round again," urged Mark, as the bride's car arrived before the groom's truck.

The knot, however, was eventually tied, but only after Ricky and Phil's ties were belatedly knotted. And only after an impromptu and possibly ill-advised group therapy session led by the right-on, good-looking vicar. He hoped Ricky and Bianca's vows would "remind some of you of the vows you have taken." Kathy looked at Phil, Tiffany glanced at Grant and Carol smiled at Alan. Pat looked confused. Thank goodness David hadn't made it — we'd have been there all night.

As the happy couple exited the church, Bianca wrinkled her pretty, newly-married nose. "Can you smell something?" Ricky couldn't but I swear I caught a lingering whiff of cod... with perhaps just a

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

hint of baloney. As for next week's resumption of real life that I promised you earlier — forget it. I'd forgotten about Dot Cotton.

I wish I had forgotten about *Keeping Mum* (BBC1) but unfortunately it's one of those sitcoms that seems to stay with you, in that I can't believe anybody thought this would-be-funny sort of way. Last night, it made the most depressing sitcom debut since

Next of Kin, which for anybody who might have forgotten was the one about the three children orphaned by a car crash and brought up by their ghoulish grandparents. By contrast, *Keeping Mum* is the one about the elderly mother (Stephanie Cole) displaying the early symptoms of senility and her two sons, the nice but feeble one (Martin Ball) who looks after her and the nasty but successful one (David Haig) who doesn't. Sounds great, eh?

Perhaps there is an army of long-suffering carers out there who think jokes about electric kettles on gas-rings, making cheese-on-toast in toasters and spraying deodorant on geraniums are funny? Perhaps it will cash in on the inexplicable success of *Forrest Gump*? Perhaps a second (and even third) series, will be commissioned, just like *Next of Kin*. Then again... Apparently, it's an adaptation of

an Australian series, but in relocating to Bristol the producers have inadvertently, I'm sure — echoed the structure of the Peter Nichols play, *Born in the Garden*. It, too, was about an elderly, batty mother who lived with her weary, middle-aged son and it, too, gained mileage from the Bristolian habit of adding additional "Is" to words. But it was seriously funny, while *Keeping Mum* is seriously not. Bit of a farce, really.

What turned out to be the gem of the evening was *Horizon: Turned On by Danger* (BBC2), a programme which held a special resonance for me. You see, I was taught biology by a former Bunny girl (no, really: O Levels, A Levels, proper stuff) and here was another former Bunny girl, Dr Polly Matzinger, telling me — and indeed the rest of the world — that we'd got it all wrong. The symmetry was

exquisite... even if the scientific conclusions were just a little frustrating.

Like Mrs P (I still treasure the memory of the afternoon she brought her ears in to show us). Matzinger was a game girl, quite happy to exploit her modestly racy past, her hippy-chick looks and her breathless, Rita Rudner delivery style, if it helped get her message over. And help it did. While some of the key establishing scenes seemed gratuitous, I suspect many of us would not have made it to the end of her complex and contentious theory of immunology without it.

Fittingly, her breakthrough moment (when she realised that things that are dangerous are things that cause damage) came in the bath. "I jumped out of the bath, totally naked, dripping water all over the house..." Science hadn't been this much fun for... ooh, about 20 years.

6.00am Business Breakfast (22963)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (70533760)
9.05am Election Call Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, John Prescott answers viewers' questions. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (92332031)

10.00am Style Challenge (81031)
10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (82321)
11.00am News (T) regional news and weather (442985)

11.05am The Really Useful Show (9662586)
11.35am Change That (8368780)
12.00am News (T) regional news and weather (419693)

12.05am Call My Bluff (5748692)
12.35am Good Living (9579963)
1.00am News (T) and weather (37708)

1.30am Regional News and weather (50116147)
1.45am The Weather Show (9607654)
1.50am Neighbours (T) (22534302)

2.15am Quincy The illegal burial of typhoid victims threatens to contaminate water supplies in Los Angeles (3649215)
3.00am Through the Keyhole With guests Russ Williams, Diane Youdale and Roy Walker (5673)

3.30am Mouse and Mole (9589654) 3.35 Playdays (T) (6883944) 3.55 Badger and Badger (T) (6844050) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (T) (8874963) 4.35 Clarissa Explains It All (T) (7208983) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5957012) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (6182993)

5.35am Neighbours (T) (832857)
6.00am News (T) and weather (741)
6.30am Regional News (T) (743050)
6.55am Election Broadcast: Natural Law Party (788383)

7.00am Big Break Jimmy White joins Matthew Stevens and Darren Morgan as they do battle on the baize. Hosted by Jim Davidson and John Virgo (T) (7854)

7.30am Top of the Pops Roundup of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and the performances (T) (503)
8.00am Porridge Godber enters the world of boxing and proves to be pretty good — until certain people decide it would be best all-round if he took a fall in the prison championships (T) (7) (6302)

8.30am A Question of Sport David Coleman asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz as regulars Ally McCoist and John Parrott take the teams of sporting celebrities vying for victory (T) (6437)
9.00am News (T) and weather (4031)

10.00am Papillon (1973) with Steve McQueen, Dustin Hoffman, Anthony Zerbe and Don Gordon. Semi-actual account of an innocent man jailed for murder, who dreams of escaping from the notorious Devil's Island. Directed by Franklin Schaffner (T) (10716234)

12.25am Plaza Suite (1971) with Walter Matthau, Maureen Stapleton and Barbara Harris. Matthau appears as a character in a series of sketches set in the same room at New York's luxurious Plaza Hotel. Adaptation of Neil Simon's stage comedy. Directed by Arthur Hiller (409752)

2.15-2.20am Weather (3039181)
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to the TV programme listings are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Put the numbers in the VideoPlus+ handset, then push the record, VideoPlus+ (V), Playcode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Design Ltd.

6.00am O.U.J.: North Sea: Managing the Common Pool (2126673) 6.25 Environment: Living with Drought (8695708) 7.15 See Hear News (T and signing) (8620586) 7.30 Teenage Turtles (T) (4004741) 7.55 50/50 (T) (7) (5506215) 8.20 Garden Fairies (2025761) 8.25 Tooth Fairies (7004437) 8.35 Racoon (T) (8724673) 9.00 French Experience (8637437) 9.15 French Collection (703215) 9.45 Watch (2007692) 10.00 Teletubbies (86673) 10.30 Watch Out (2223499) 10.45 Pathways of Belief (221654) 11.00 Look and Read (4496925) 11.20 Belle's File (7891789) 11.40 Mathsplus (862857) 12.00 English File (51215) 12.30pm Working Lunch (88857) 1.00 Job Bank 1.20 Developing World (8495687) 1.45 Words and Pictures (5010244) 2.00 Garden Fairies (T) (3703730) 2.05 Tooth Fairies (T) (3703657) 2.10 A-Z of Food (T) (42953147)

2.25am Racing from Newbury The 2.40; 3.10 and 3.40 races (6946012) 3.55 News (T) 4.00 Blockbusters (8511321) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8621708) 4.55 Esther (9680741) 5.30 Today's the Day (470)

6.00am The Simpsons (T) (936673)
6.20am Star Trek (T) (671470)
7.10am Timewatch: Back to the Iron Age (T) (699296)

8.00am A Gaffer's Travels with Peter Alliss in South Africa where he meets Gary Sobers, F.W. de Klerk and Gary Player (T) (4944)

8.30am Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh builds an arbour, and Gay Search visits Columbia Road, flower market in London. Plus, Steven Lacey's third report from Holland (T) (3070)

9.00am Have I Got News for You Hosted by Paul Merton and Ian Hislop are joined by environmental activist Swampy (5031)

9.30am Sunnyvale Farm First of a two-part sitcom about two brothers attempt to escape a living on a farm. Starring Phil Daniels, Michael Kitchen, Mark Addy and Beth Goddard (T) (91321)

10.00am Rab C. Nesbitt (T) (52944)
10.30am Newsnight (T) (32598)
11.30am Election Broadcast: Natural Law Party (866031)

11.35am Above and Beyond Conclusion of a two-part story (24316)
12.20am This Life (T) (6773451)

1.05am Here on Earth (1993) Portuguese drama about a man depressed by his father's death and another who has killed his girlfriend's lover, who must under strange circumstances. Directed by Jose Botelho (328528)

2.50am Weather (8068203)
Phil Daniels and Mark Addy (9.30pm)

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2.50am Weather (8068203)
Phil Daniels and Mark Addy (9.30pm)

6.00am GMTV (8427708)
9.25am Chain Letters (T) (335031) 9.55 Regional News (T) (2486418)
10.00am The Time, the Place (83459)
10.30am This Morning (T) (61848079)
12.20pm Regional News (T) and weather (4192147)

12.30am News (T) and weather (9565780)
12.55am Our House (9580079) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (2117780) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (6494254) 2.00 ITV Crimewatchers (7819498) 2.50 Garden Calendar (T) (5748050)

3.20am News (T) (7490050)
3.25am Regional News (T) (7499321)
3.30am Rosie and Jim (8363031) 3.40 Cartoon Time (8956955) 3.55 Zapp (888873) 4.15 Where's Wally? (T) (8963021) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (T) (6011302)

5.10am A Country Practice (1322031)
5.40am News (T) and weather (876073)
6.00am Home and Away (T) (842760)
6.25am ITV Weather (728741)
6.30am The West Tonight (789)

7.00am Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (T) (5050)
7.30am Coronation Street (T) (23845)
7.50am News (86971)

8.00am Home and Away (T) (842760)
8.25am ITV Weather (728741)
8.30am The West Tonight (789)
7.00am Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (T) (5050)

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2.50-3.20am Our House (5748050)
5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (1322031)
6.25-7.00am Central News (124147)
10.45am Central Weekend Election Special (410673)

12.15am Weekly World News (62967)
12.45am Friday Bunker (27432)
1.45am Baywatch (8286548)
2.40am Cyber Cafe (3687364)
3.05am Movie Club (75283548)
3.35am Dating the Enemy (2572838)
4.30am Central Jobfinder '97 (9903906)
5.20am Asian Eye (1205971)

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LONDON MARATHON 40-41

Finishing times
up to 5hr
18min 13sec

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 18 1997

TENNIS 42

Wimbledon serves
up new court and
old pay dispute



Slater recalled for Ashes series

Australia keep faith with troubled Taylor

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA will arrive in England next month with their most unsettled Ashes team for a decade. Their tour party, twice delayed by procrastinating, if not panicking selectors, was finally unveiled yesterday and exposed a rare indecision over the top-order batting and seam bowling.

For a change, it is Australia and not England who appear unsure what their best team might be. This encouraging message was transmitted by the speculative recall of Michael Slater, who has not played a Test match all winter, and of two fast bowlers, Brendon Julian and Michael Kasprovicz, from a shelf-load of apparently inadequate discards.

The reason for withholding the 17 names until the tour of South Africa was over is now plain, as five members of that party have been omitted. The most notable absentees are Matthew Hayden, Stuart Law and Paul Reiffel. Hayden and Law can now take up county contracts, with Hampshire and Essex respectively, and Yorkshire have swiftly covered the unexpected loss of Slater by engaging another unwanted Australian, the left-handed batsman, Darren Lehmann.

Mark Taylor retains the

captaincy, which is not so much a display of confidence in his recently wretched batting but an admission that no alternative candidate could match his leadership skills. Ian Healy is too combustible, Steve Waugh too insular and Shane Warne too inexperienced, so Taylor, still the most astute and authoritative captain in world cricket, quite properly keeps the job.

He will come here under immense pressure after failing to make a single half-century in his past 20 Test innings and being obliged to listen to a number of distinguished Australian old boys, Dennis Lillee prominent among them, advocating his replacement. "The fact that the selectors have stuck with me shows great faith," he said yesterday.

Intuitively, however, there is a change of lieutenant. Healy clearly lost some house points with the establishment through his untimely suspension for dissent in South Africa last month and later, when deputising for the resting Taylor, admitted that captaincy affected his wicket-keeping. This combination of factors has cost him the vice-captaincy, which passes to Steve Waugh.

Like Taylor, Waugh will be making his third Ashes tour.

Unlike Taylor, there is no question over his batting form and, with his twin brother, Mark, he forms the heart of the Australian order. Above and around the Waughes, however, there is a sense of confusion and the selection of Slater confirms Australia's problems in identifying a settled top three.

Slater was dropped after playing impetuously in the single Test in India last autumn. Banished to Sheffield Shield cricket, where his form was not spectacular, it was also believed that he needed to refocus on cricket and clear his mind of business concerns.

For Taylor and Slater, once unchallenged as the best opening combination in the world, it will be a little like starting out again in search of lost reputations. The inexperience of Matthew Elliott, who will have the perpetually peripheral Justin Langer as a rival for the No 3 position, simply adds to the uncertain look of the batting.

It was always obvious that the Australia bowling would depend heavily on Glenn McGrath and Warne and the selection confirms it. This is not in itself a condemnation, for these are two considerable bowlers. McGrath is now among the finest seamers in the world, Warne still the best spinner; if they remain fit and in form England will inevitably compare unfavourably.

The back-up bowling, however, is vulnerable. Jason Gillespie is an emerging force with the new ball but Julian, Kasprovicz and Andy Bichel are no better than a selection of English seamers. Reiffel's omission, in a country that suits his style so admirably, is a puzzle.

The selectors have also taken a calculated risk by declining to include a second specialist slow bowler. There is no finger spinner in the party, if one discounts Mark Waugh's occasional off breaks, and Michael Bevan, whose left-arm wrist spin bamboozled West Indies earlier this year, may not be quite so effective on English pitches.

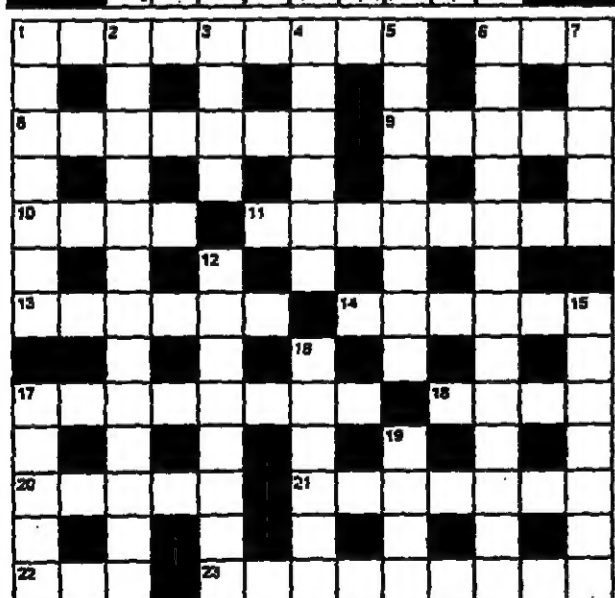
The Australians are due to arrive in London on May 11 and remain worthy favourites to take the six-Test series. They are a formidable team, as their winter victories over West Indies and South Africa suggest. But though they continue to win series, they also lose matches too often for comfort. Their selection simply confirms that they are not quite the cohesive juggernaut of old and the England management need not be at all discouraged.

Croaj's view, page 45

AUSTRALIA TOUR PARTY

	Age	Tests
Batmen		
M A Taylor (New South Wales, captain)	32	81
S R Waugh (NSW, vice-captain)	31	69
M E Waugh (NSW)	31	63
M T G Elliott (Victoria)	25	5
M J Slater (NSW)	27	34
R T Ponting (Tasmania)	22	6
J L Langer (Western Australia)	26	8
All-rounders		
G S Blissett (South Australia)	25	16
M G Bevan (NSW)	28	14
Wicketkeepers		
I A Healy (Queensland)	32	68
A C Gilchrist (Western Australia)	24	0
Bowlers		
G McGrath (NSW)	27	28
J N Gillespie (NSW)	21	5
A J Bichel (Queensland)	26	2
S K Warne (Victoria)	27	52
M S Kasprovicz (Queensland)	25	2
B P Julian (Western Australia)	26	7

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1071

ACROSS

- 1 Note dispenser (9)
- 4 Success: damage (9)
- 6 Torture chamber (19/4)
- 9 Local regulation (2-3)
- 10 Hard fruit: crazy (4)
- 11 Reactionary element (5,5)
- 13 Lord Jim author (6)
- 14 Open-toed shoe (6)
- 17 Unenveloped mail item (8)
- 18 Make a mouse (4)
- 20 In front (5)
- 21 One under tangle (7)
- 22 Slack (5)
- 23 Highland bonnet (9)

DOWN

- 1 Long-lasting (complaint) (7)
- 2 Nice but too brief (iron.) (5,3,5)
- 3 Dickens' illustrator: face (slang) (4)
- 4 Frozen drips (6)
- 5 Sledge (8)
- 6 Furtive (4-3-6)
- 7 Hauled (unpowered vehicle) (5)
- 8 Protective animal, official (8)
- 15 A gamble (7)
- 16 Twist in agony (6)
- 17 Sylvia —, poet d. 1963 (5)
- 19 Sudden sharp pain (4)

The solution to 1070 will be published Wednesday, April 23

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